

# Mount Roskill Grammar School

## Term 3: Week 9



### From the Principal

Kia ora koutou katoa

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori is an opportunity for the concentrated celebration and promotion of te reo Māori, building on our ongoing efforts to raise awareness and usage by our students and staff. During the year most of our year nine students have enjoyed the tikanga Māori module taught by Whaea Fisher and our teachers have been part of a challenge to use te reo Māori in lessons underlining the value of Māori language and culture. This week there are many activities for all students to take part in.

School exams for seniors are halfway through. During the exams students have four days to study at home enabling them to practice independent study whilst having on-going lessons so that teachers can give ongoing guidance. In the last two days of term most results will be available. During the mentoring day in the first week of term four students, families and teacher mentors will check plans for the successful completion of the academic year.

Following prizegiving in week three of term four there will be two further in-school learning weeks for all seniors students who need ongoing direct instruction from their teachers. Year 9 and 10 students will have their school exams in term four.

Congratulations to the boys basketball team who won their way through to the national tournament to be held in Palmerston North at the end of this month. The team finished 6th in the recent Upper North Island tournament to claim their place in the 24-team national event. Thank you to the coaching team led by Mr Windsor for all your work with the team.

This will be the last newsletter for the term. The term break is a great time to have a rest, refresh, and to prepare to finish the academic year strongly.

Hei konā mai



Greg Watson  
Tumuaki | Principal



Marjet Pot  
Presiding Member

### School Board

Kia ora koutou

As our senior taura are undertaking their exams it is great to see how seriously they are taking them. The work that goes in to preparing for the exams, by both kaiako and taura, does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to our kaiako for providing comprehensive feedback enabling each taura to achieve their best. Taura should use the feedback received to plan for ongoing study in preparation for November. All of our learning at MRGS focuses on progress and next steps. What are your specific next steps?

It is exciting to see our diversity continuing to be celebrated for Tongan Language Week and this weeks Te Wiki o te Reo Māori. This is a part of what makes MRGS such a special kura.

We have a number of end of year celebrations starting at the end of this term and ongoing in term four. I look forward to our whānau joining us to celebrate those who have achieved their goals and excelled in their chosen fields.

Ngā manaakitanga

# Calendar

Date	Event
<b>4 - 20 September</b>	<b>Senior Exams</b>
4 - 8 September	Tongan Language Week
11 - 15 September	Te Wiki o te Reo Māori
14 - 15 September	Board Student Elections
20 September	Sports Awards Evening
<b>22 September</b>	<b>End of Term 3</b>
<b>9 October</b>	<b>Start of Term 4</b>
9-13 October	Fijian Language Week
<b>12 October</b>	<b>Mentoring</b>
16-20 October	Niue Language Week
17 October	Māori Graduation
19 October	Pasifika Graduation

## Exams

Please click on the link below for Term 4 exam schedule

[Term 4 Exam Timetable](#)

## Phone Use

Our expectation of phones in lessons is:

Phones need to be on silent, in students' bags during lessons, unless directed by the teacher to be used for learning

Teachers will continue to communicate the schools expectations of phones. If phones are seen during lessons, students will be reminded of the expectations and asked to put phones in their bags. If a student is seen with their phone again, students will be asked to hand the phone to the teacher. At the end of the lesson, students will have a brief conversation with the teacher and their phone will be returned to them.

Teachers will record the phone use and confiscation of the phone via kamar. For students who have multiple reports from teachers of phone use, they will first have a conversation with their Dean. The second and subsequent times teachers report a student's phone use in lessons, whānau will be contacted and will be asked to meet with the Deputy Principal of their child's House. In conversation with whānau, students' privilege to have their phone in school will be removed for a certain period of time.

In order to support us with phone use in lessons, and maximise teaching and learning time. We ask for parents to only communicate with their child during break times. If there is an urgent matter, please contact admin and we will communicate with your child as soon as possible. This also enables us to support students with upsetting situations in the best possible way.

## Attendance

Attendance is incredibly important, our expectation is that students are here at school every day, unless they are sick or for another valid reason.

If your child is away, please contact [attendance@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:attendance@mrgs.school.nz)

## Student ID Cards

ID Cards can be purchased for \$10 at accounts. If you need your ID card for your drivers licence or opening a bank account please remember it will take up to two weeks for your ID card to be printed.



# Tongan Language Week





# Peace Article



## Youth Peace Symposium: “Community Connect: Project4Peace”

After our MRGS Peace Week, 22 Mediators attended the fabulous Peace Symposium, alongside eight other schools and Peace Leaders.

This fun, informative day was full of engaging, interactional Peace activities, as well as hearing from inspirational speakers Georgia Latu, Mike Chunn and Brie Monetti.

Georgia Latu started Pōtiki poi back in early 2019 as a fundraiser to get herself to a wānanga up north. She didn't have the pūtea at the time so she and her whānau started making poi. In three days she managed to fundraise over \$1000 and nearly four years later Pōtiki Poi is now the largest poi manufacturing company in the world, employing 40 people. She is only 16!

Mike Chunn is a former member of the New Zealand bands Split Enz and Citizen Band. In 2015, he was awarded the Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to music and mental health awareness. He is currently the CEO of “Play It Strange Trust”, a charity that encourages students to have a go at songwriting. Mataakitia Gray-Hohepa is the 2023 Peace Song finalist and sang her beautiful song “Midnight Haze”.

Brie Monetti from ReliefAid: “Bounce Back 4 Syria” spoke of the tremendous work this organisation does for communities who are unable to escape from their war torn countries.

Our Mediators Labeeqa, Fatima, Rachel, Megan, Alisson, Hargun, Anna, Jessica, Jaelin, Nhi, Christopher, Isabella, Aiysha, Sumayyah, Namish, Samiyah, Aanisha, Muznah, Earl, Nicole, Zahir and Redeyet all did a wonderful peace presentation making MRGS proud once again.

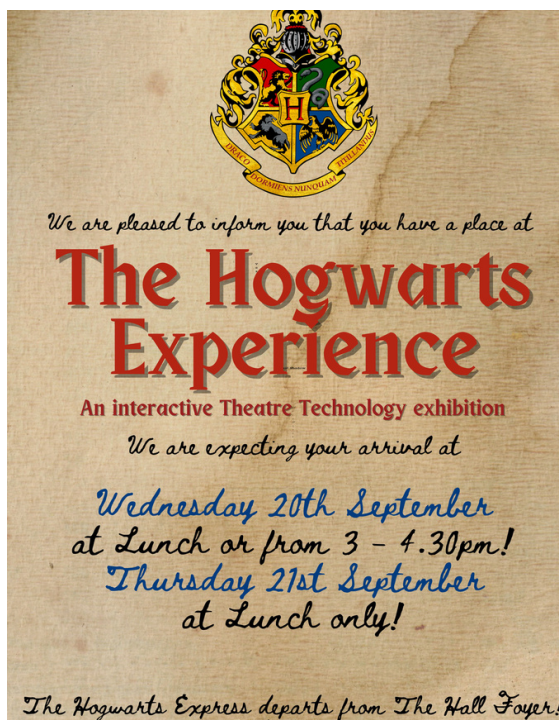
A BIG THANK YOU to the Peace Foundation who made this possible!

**E hara taku toa  
i te toa takitahi,  
he toa takitini  
My strength is not as an individual,  
But as a collective.**





# Performing Arts Notices



On August 22nd our Street Dance Crew ten41fiYAH performed at Stand Up Stand Out at Roskill Youth Zone. We are so proud of what they have achieved this year: performing to such a high standard, learning new styles as well as honouring the history of Street Dance.

## Mathematics Competition

Otago University Junior Mathematics Competition

Academic success is a tradition at MRGS. This year students added another success story to our success history.

In the recent Otago University Junior Mathematics Competition, we had one Top 30 Prize winner, three Distinction winners and eight Merit winners. Congratulations to all winners and participants!

### Top 30 Prize winner

Phineas Ou

### Merit winners

Haaris Bhutta  
Adrian Chong  
Alec Cruz  
Joshua Epream  
Pratyush Khatiwada  
Dev Maisuriya  
Alice Tran  
Richie Chong

### Distinction Winners

Hayden Carpendale  
Joanne Huang  
Shahana Kulathungar



## Engineering

This year we had the privilege of exposing some of our top female students from Years 11 to 13 to the world of Engineering. This event was hosted at our school by Nicole Steven's from Auckland University. Her Network aimed to encourage female students into Engineering studies after Year 13. Our students gained valuable insight to the real world applications of Mathematics and Science. They were also given an activity called Aqualibrium that involved pumping water to all houses in a town at the same rate.





# Tournament Week





# Sports

## NZ Secondary Schools Winter Tournament Week:

Week 7 saw a number of our Sports students competing against schools from all over the country in a variety of different sports. Mount Roskill Grammar had teams and students competing in Tauranga, Hamilton and Auckland across the week. It was great to see so many students competing hard, enjoying themselves, and proudly representing our school. A big thanks to all of the staff and parents who were able to make this happen for our students. Tournament Results below:

**Boys 1st XI Hockey Team** - 9th at Olympic Stick Trophy in Tauranga

**Girls 1st XI Hockey Team** - 13th at Mary Clinton Cup in Tauranga

**Boys 1st XI Football Team** - 23rd at Malcolm Cowie Tournament in Auckland

**Boys Senior Basketball Team** - 6th at AA Auckland Tournament

**Premier Netball Team** - 12th in the B Grade of Upper North Island Netball Championships

**Sursum Curling Team** - 2nd place in Open Grade at North Island SS Curling Tournament

**Phoenix Curling Team** - 3rd place in Open Grade at North Island SS Curling Tournament

## Wrestling NZ Secondary School Nationals:

**Samantha Williams** gold ( junior U58kg and U62kg out of 2) and winner of Best Female Wrestler trophy.

**Steven Taiwhanga**: 5th place (senior U60kg out of 5 competitors)

**Rayyan Faizal** 6th place (Senior U71kg out of 12)

**Reggae Akeimo** 10th place (Senior U80kg out of 12)

**Nate Glover** 5th place (junior U68kg out of 6)

## Secondary Schools National Climbing Cup

**Stella Boyd** - 16th in the Senior Girls Speed Climb

**Stella Boyd** - 12th in the Senior Girls combined Top Rope and Boulder Competition

## Senior Boys Basketball Congratulations - National Qualifiers

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Basketball team and management who have qualified for the NZ Secondary Schools Nationals Tournament for the first time ever. The team placed 6th in the AA Auckland Basketball competition last week beating Premier grade team Westlake Boys and knocking them out of the finals to secure their spot in the top 8 of Auckland. The team needed to win one of their three final games and got the job done in convincing fashion against Northcote College to secure their spot at Nationals. The National Tournament takes place in the first Week of the School Holidays in Palmerston North. Good luck to the team!

## Sports Awards - Wednesday 20th September, 6.00pm Butler Hall

The 2023 Sports Awards evening is just around the corner and with a quick turn around after the winter season, invitations to prize winners will be sent out early in Week 9. Any parents/caregivers or students who are not winning a prize and would like to attend can purchase a ticket from the Accounts Office for \$15.00. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate our students sporting successes from 2023.





#### **Term 4 Summer Sport Registrations:**

Registrations are open for Term 4 Summer Sports and will close at the end of Week 9. We have Cricket, Volleyball, Touch, Tag, Waka Ama, Social Tennis, Water Polo, Lacrosse, Lawn Bowls and Softball available if there are enough interested students. A registration form has been emailed to all students and they can continue to use the link below to register until the end of Week 9

#### **Term 4 Summer Sport Registrations**

For any questions about summer sports please email [sports.department@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:sports.department@mrgs.school.nz)

#### **Winter Sport Uniform Return:**

With most winter sports now completed, can we please ask that all school sports uniforms and track suits are returned to the Sports department by the end of Week 9. It is important that we get all uniforms back to ensure we have complete team sets for future years.

#### **Mountain Bike Event 5 Woodhill Forest:**

The final Mountain Bike competition for the year saw five Year 9 boys competing in the final event of the Auckland Series. The boys have competed well all year in some very trying conditions, and we are looking forward to growing our Mountain Biking Club. A huge thanks to all of the parents who have been very supportive of the MTB Club and making this happen! Results from the final event below:

#### **U14 Boys:**

29th - Taylor Bower

#### **U15 Boys:**

17th - Tristan Duncan-Sutherland

26th - Finlay Dodd

31st - Garv Sharma

32nd - Ari McBeath



# VIKINGS KIWI TAG

BAY ROSKILL

## VIKINGS

EST 1979

### Blockhouse Bay Reserve

Grades Juniors and Seniors  
U7/U9/U11/14/16 Friday  
Mixed Social & Men's Monday

October - December

Spots are limited  
For more information please contact  
[theropatis@gmail.com](mailto:theropatis@gmail.com)





# History



## Tiritiri Matangi Bird Sanctuary Trip

On the 25th of August, nine students from the year 11, 12 and 13 Japanese classes visited one of New Zealand's beautiful bird sanctuary islands, Tiritiri Matangi on a Japanese immersion day. Tiritiri Matangi means buffeted by the wind and it is located near Whangaparāoa peninsula. It is home to New Zealand's rare and endangered bird species, including Takahē, Stitch bird(hihi), Kererū(wood pigeon), and little blue penguin (korora). We travelled by ferry from town to the island and had the opportunity to walk through the vast forestry composed of native tree species and see some of these exquisite native birds with our own eyes. Lastly, we understood more about the species of both birds and fauna declining in population with regards to the growth of the urban lifestyle in main islands. We wish the main island to be like Tiritiri Matangi in a near future, like a home for native birds.

Thank you to Ms Kojima for applying for the funding and also organising this experience, and Mr McAlpine for driving the school van. The Japanese advisor, Ms Fukazawa from Tui Tuia Learning Circle organisation also joined our Japanese immersion day.

# Learning Hub Review





## Flight of the Fantail by Steph Matuku

Set in modern-day Aotearoa, a group of high school kids are involved in a bus crash on the way to school camp. They crash in an area of remote New Zealand bush where locals know not to go. There are very few survivors, but those that are left quickly work out there is a far bigger threat than finding food and shelter until they are rescued. Something is messing with their minds, making them see and think things to the point where the biggest threat could come from each other. With the shady corporation that owns the area insisting on carrying out the search and rescue themselves with no outside help and all electronic equipment going haywire, there is a lot more going on in this particular piece of New Zealand bush.

This is definitely one for the older end of Young Adults, it deals with or hints at some quite dark themes and stories of survival and hallucination, but I think it is a cleverly told story, with relatable characters and recognisable settings.

# Board Election



**STUDENT ELECTION NOTICE**

Student representative election for the School Board.

Nominations are invited for the election of one student representative to the School Board.

Nomination Forms and more information are available from the school office.

**Nominations close at noon on**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

Keep an eye out on the student notices for up-to-date information

**Voting is during interval and lunch breaks on**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September, and**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September**



# Family Host



If anyone would like to be a host family for our international students, please contact Amanda Wong: [amanda.wong@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:amanda.wong@mrgs.school.nz)

We have short-term and long-term students coming all year round from different countries. 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.

## Sponsorship



### Helping fuel school sports

We reckon every kid deserves to play their part in school sports. So, we're proud to play our part in helping them get there.









Thanks to Caltex Dominion Road for their ongoing support of our sports teams.

## Health

### Strep Throat

Signs of strep throat may include:

 <b>Sore throat that starts suddenly.</b>	 <b>Fever and/or chills.</b>
 <b>Abdominal pain.</b>	 <b>Loss of appetite.</b>
 <b>Headache.</b>	 <b>Nausea or vomiting.</b>

### What is rheumatic fever?

Rheumatic fever is a serious illness which is an inflammatory disease that can cause the heart, joints (elbows, wrists, ankles and knees), brain and the skin to become swollen and painful. It can lead to rheumatic heart disease, which causes serious heart problems.

### How rheumatic fever develops

Group A Streptococcus 'strep throat' if left untreated can cause...

A rare abnormal reaction in your child's body That develops into...

Rheumatic fever That can cause...

Rheumatic heart disease

### The symptoms


A few weeks after having a 'strep throat' your child may develop:

- sore and swollen joints (knees, elbows, ankles and wrists). Joints may feel hot as well. Different joints may be sore on different days
- an on-going fever that lasts a few days.

If your child has these symptoms take them to the doctor or nurse straight away to get them checked.

They may also have:

- stomach pains
- extreme tiredness
- weight loss
- an unusual looking rash on their body, arms and legs.



There is a rise in Strep throat in our community at the moment. Strep throat can lead to Rheumatic Fever(RF) which can damage the heart(Rheumatic Heart Disease RHD). New Zealand has unacceptable levels of RF/RHD. Our Māori and Pacific populations are most at risk.

Any students with a sore throat must to get checked by their GP. Strep throat can be treated with 10 days of oral antibiotics (Penicillin).





We welcome In-zone enrolment applications for students intending to start at Mt Roskill Grammar School in 2024. Enrolments are now open.

Online enrolment forms can be found at  
<https://www.mrgs.school.nz/in-zone/>

Paper copy forms can be collected from the Mt Roskill Grammar School Reception in the Administration office or from your school office.

If you have any questions please contact Ms. Haines on 09 621 0050  
or email [enrolment@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:enrolment@mrgs.school.nz)

We look forward to receiving your child's application and welcoming you  
to our Mt Roskill Grammar School family.

