

Mount Roskill Grammar School

Term 4: Week 10



Kia ora koutou

Congratulations to our year 9 and 10 students for an excellent end to our school year. After getting grades and feedback for end of year assessments everyone enjoyed participating in a wide range of activities both at school and around the Auckland region.

Our prizegiving celebrated achievement throughout the year across a wide range of academic and co-curricular endeavours. It is satisfying to see so many students whose future is filled with positive possibilities because of their confidence in their abilities.

Throughout my time at Mount Roskill Grammar School, I have enjoyed being part of a big team focused on giving each student momentum in life to enable them to be successful at school, and after school.

I feel so lucky to have been part of a community that has so much energy and aspiration and thank the community and the School Board for your support during my time here. I'm excited for the next years of Mount Roskill Grammar School and know that everyone will enjoy getting to know our next Principal, Mr Tom Webb.

The crimson blossom on the pohutukawa trees on the main field is heralding the summer season. Best wishes to everyone for a restful Christmas holiday.

Ngā manaakitanga

From staff and students past and present, thank you Mr Watson for your 17 years of service.



Greg Watson
Tumuaki | Principal



Mr Watson with Bob Coldham, foundation student and first head boy 1953.

It was a privilege to attend the junior prize giving last week. We celebrate the excellent education and leadership opportunities that taura have received. We celebrate and are grateful for the awesome kaimahi who teach and care for our taura and each other. We celebrate that MRGS provides an inclusive environment where each individual is given every opportunity to reach their potential and to become powerful learners and where we respect each other as individuals. We celebrate that we have a kura where taura are given the right skills to leave this kura as confident and responsible citizens; a love of learning, engagement in all of the activities, and leadership which often goes out into the community. We are grateful for our whānau as their support is what makes the difference to taura outcomes. Thank you also for the support which the kura receives from the wider community including coaching, financial support, travel, local business support, scholarships, tuition, and mentoring to name just a few.

To close 2023, the Board would like to acknowledge Mr Watson. He has been Tumuaki at MRGS for 17 years. We want to thank and acknowledge Mr Watson for his 17 years of leadership. He started in Term 3, 2006 and is the longest serving Tumuaki. He has had unwavering dedication and commitment to this kura, the kaimahi, the taura and the wider community.

Mr Watson's leadership is visionary and strategic. He is committed to ensuring that all students are successful powerful learners, and he has worked tirelessly to ensure that MRGS offers a warm caring community where each individual is valued for who they are. He has overseen the development and implementation of the school values of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and tūmanakotanga, and the Roskill Way.

He has ensured that MRGS is a kura where kaimahi are knowledgeable, caring and compassionate. He is very skilled at developing leadership opportunities for kaiako and during his time at MRGS many have gone on to become a senior leader or Tumuaki at other kura. His passion and love of the kura has had a profound impact on us all. Mr Watson has worked tirelessly for the kura. He is at the school almost every day of the year. He has attended countless late night hui, sports events, arts performances and all cultural events. He knows the value of being present and having a presence and knowing the community he is part of.

He has worked with the Ministry of Education to bring about the improvement in our buildings including the Hub, senior common room, staffroom weather tightness improvements, the upgrade the Hockey turf, the football turf, performing arts spaces and many more. The kura ERO reports have always been at the highest standard which is a direct result of his leadership. Through Mr Watson we have learnt the value of strong and clear leadership and communication. Strong leadership provides us with calmness and direction.

On behalf of this kura I want to express our deepest appreciation and thanks for the unparalleled contribution Mr Watson has made to our community. It has been the privilege of the Board to have worked alongside him for 17 years. We wish him the very best for his future plans. Thank you Mr Watson, for all you have done.



Marjet Pot
Presiding Member

Ms Hartstonge



Ms Hartstonge leaves us this year as the longest serving staff member. She started in 1979 and has served the school as a HOD history, and a Dean. She led MUNA, future problem solving, netball and squash. She was also an exceptionally well read teacher librarian.

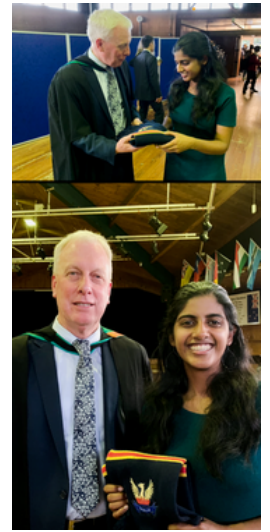
"You never know where you'll find a Roskill Kid – or what they'll be doing. They could pop up at a hotel in Key West, on a tour of the Vatican City, at a Post Office in Florence. A professor in the Law school at Auckland University, a Superintendent on the NZ Police Force, a lawyer at a top firm in London, a top ranking officer in the NZ Army, or work for a major multinational in Switzerland. They work in the top ranks of banking in Auckland, Wellington, Sydney, Melbourne or Dubai. They are teachers, nurses, doctors, or have started successful businesses on Carr Road. They played professional rugby in Japan, become movie stars, and are managers of gourmet food import businesses. And they have completed post graduate study at the University of California Berkley campus (after turning down MIT – the one in the USA).

The reason I have stayed here all this time is those amazing Roskill kids. Thank you Mt Roskill Grammar School for a career that was many, many thing but never ever boring." Ms Hartsonge.

"If you're lucky you'll have a special teacher, who made a difference in your life. Ms Hartstonge is mine. More than any other teacher in the 1980s she encouraged us to aspire to university - she expected it. I hope we've done you proud over the years, the many thousands of students who have passed through your care."

Alumna Professor Khylee Quince

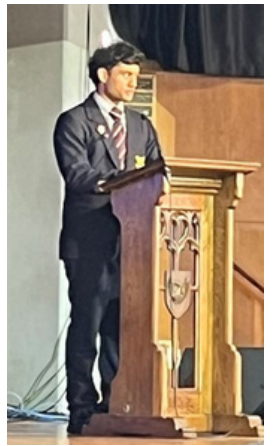
Thank you Mr Watson



We farewelled Mr Watson with an afternoon tea on Friday 1 December.

It was wonderful to see past and present staff and students represented as we acknowledged the different facets of Mr Watson's leadership as our Tumuaki over the past 17 years.

Junior Prizegiving



Congratulations to

Lily Maplesden
1st in Year 9

Mantra Bhatt
1st in Year 10

Joshua Epream
2nd in Year 10

Violette Ramsay
2nd in Year 9

Wider Education



Calendar

Date	Event
14 December	Office Closed
18 January	Office Re-Open
1 February	Year 9, Year 13 Mentors and all New Students Only
2 February	Year 9 Only
5 February	Staff Only Day
6 February	Waitangi Day
7 February	First day for all students
12 April	End of Term 1
29 April - 5 July	Term 2
22 July - 27 September	Term 3
14 October - 13 December	Term 4

Homestays Needed



At the beginning of the year we have many new international students from 11 different countries starting their short or long-term study with us.

An important part of their time in New Zealand is the family they stay with and these relationships often last way beyond when the student leaves.

If you have a spare room and a warm heart to welcome a student from overseas, we'd love to hear from you.

Payment to you as the host is \$325 per week and a police vet is necessary before hosting commences.

For more information or to express interest please contact Amanda.wong@mrgs.school.nz

Sports

Swimming:

Congratulations and good luck to our swimmers competing in Australia.

Nemanja Markovic is competing at the Queensland Championships in Brisbane from Friday 8th to Sunday 17th December as part of the Swimming New Zealand National Age Group Programme team and Ethan Stocks is competing in the New South Wales Open Water Championships on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December as a member of Swimming New Zealands Open Water team.

Daniel Kregting was also selected to compete in Australia with an Auckland Swimming team but will instead to travel to the USA with his Roskill Swim Club Team.

2024 Summer Sport Registration:

Each season we provide a link for students to sign up for competitive and social Sport and Recreation activities. If you are interested in participating in a summer sport or recreation activity please complete the Summer Sport 2024 Registration google form <https://forms.gle/bhXbRX9EmAqB26Xq7>. Take a look at all of the different options and get involved in something new at Mount Roskill Grammar School. The Sports Department encourage all parents and students to follow the MRGS Sports page on Instagram for up to date information regarding sport and recreational activities happening at the school – follow @mrgs.sport

2024 Mount Roskill Grammar School Junior and Senior Cricket Muster and Trial Information for Boys and Girls wanting to play Cricket in Term 1:

Can all parents and students interested in participating please register for cricket by emailing the Teacher in Charge (Cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz) with the student's first and last name and what year level they will be in 2024. If you have questions about the Cricket Trials, are unable to make a muster date or are able to assist with Cricket in 2024, please contact Cameron. We require a lot of parent assistance with every cricket team, including Coaches, Managers, Umpires and Scorers to ensure our students have a positive experience in Cricket.

<p>All Cricket Sessions will take place on the main Mount Roskill Grammar Fields and Cricket Nets which will be accessible via a Pedestrian Gate at Gate 2 (opposite the Intermediate/Primary School) – parents are encouraged to attend to support and connect with the Teacher in Charge of Cricket</p>		
Thursday 25th January	10.00am – 12.00pm	Year 9 and Year 10 Cricket Boys Muster
Friday 26th January	10.00am – 11.30am	Girls Cricket Muster/Practice (All Year Levels)
Friday 26 th January	11.00am – 1.00pm	Senior Boys Cricket Practice (All Year 11-13s)
Tuesday 30 th January	12.00pm – 5.00pm	Year 9 and Year 10 Boys Trial Game (30 overs match)
Wednesday 31 st January	3.15pm – 5.00pm	Senior Boys Cricket Practice (All Year 11-13s)



Performing Arts



In Week 5 an excited number of the cast and crew of the Level 3 Production Puffs attended the annual Showdown Production Awards, which celebrates the best and most creative school productions Auckland wide.

We were nominated in many categories and were thrilled to celebrate Latu Tavake who won the award for Best Supporting Performer in a Play. Her performance of Leanne, a very enthusiastic but dim-witted Puff was hilarious and a well deserving choice as winner of this award.

We'd like to also acknowledge the other nominated individuals this year:

Best Costume Design – Level 2 and 3 Theatre Technology Students

Best Sound Design – Frances Damu

Best Performer in a Minor Role – Asciat Oshana and Meleane Mafi

Best Supporting Performer in a Play – Finn Lavery and Shreya Walthati

Best Ensemble – the Cast of Puffs



The Wilfrid Hansen Technical Scholarship Trust was established in 2002, to provide assistance to students training for a professional career in the NZ theatre and event industries.

This year we are pleased to announce that Shreya Walthati is one of the recipients of this incredible scholarship. Shreya has had an impressive year, finishing as top student in Level 3 Theatre Technology. She had lots of fun Stage Managing our Level 2 production 'Attila the Hun' as well as designing some super creative costumes for our Level 3 Production 'Puffs'.

This opportunity will allow Shreya to get critical training she can use as she begins her career backstage/behind the screen and allow her to gain her first steps into the industry working with exceptional theatre technology practitioners.

Congratulations Shreya

Uniform



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL UNIFORM

From 2024 our uniform will be available online and at the Elizabeth Michael store. This means you have 24/7 access to purchase uniform. Uniform will also be available to purchase at the school at the start of each year.

ON SITE - AT MRGS

Mon 22 Jan	10am-6pm	Mon 29 Jan	Closed
Tues 23 Jan	10am-6pm	Tues 30 Jan	10am-6pm
Weds 24 Jan	10am-6pm	Wed 31 Jan	10am-6pm
Thurs 25 Jan	10am-6pm	Thurs 1 Feb	10am-6pm
Fri 26 Jan	10am-6pm	Fri 2 Feb	10am-6pm

ONLINE ORDERING

To register from Saturday 6 January visit www.elizabethmichael.co.nz and use the school code **RG299**. You will receive a registration email and access to the online uniform shop. Orders can be couriered to your home (fee applies) or you can pick up in store.

IN STORE

From Saturday 6 January you will be able to visit Elizabeth Michael's uniform shop at 65 New North Road, Eden Terrace to try on and purchase your Mount Roskill Grammar School uniform.

Opening hours are:
Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm
Fri 9am-4pm
Saturday 9am-1pm

Elizabeth Michael Uniforms • P: 09 358 1680 • uniforms@elizabethmichael.co.nz

ElizabethMichael
UNIFORMS

Sponsorship



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



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.



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Got five minutes?

Your child's back to school class list is ready to shop now at **myschool.co.nz** or call us Mon to Fri, 8.30am – 5pm.

myschool.co.nz **0800 724 440**