



# Mount Roskill Grammar School NEWSLETTER



## SETTLING INTO A successful year of learning



## Outstanding Scholarship

**Noma Talakia'atu**

**Received an Outstanding Scholarship and  
Top Scholar Award for Dance.  
She is the top dance candidate in New Zealand.**

## From our Principal

Thank you to all the new parents who were able to make it to our New Parents' Evening last Thursday. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you on this day and to start our partnership with you.

We have had a very settled start to the year, and our new Year 9 students seem to be finding their feet. As I said on the night, please get in touch if you have any concerns. We are keen to hear your feedback and work with you to support our students.

Last week in assemblies, I spoke to all students about the importance of setting goals for themselves at the start of this year. We would like to see all of our senior students pass NCEA this year, and to do that, they need to aim for at least 14 credits in each of their subjects. No matter how students have done in the past, they can start this year with a clean slate and high expectations.

This week, we celebrated the achievements of our students at our annual NCEA Excellence Awards Evening. All students who achieved an excellence endorsement last year were recognized, along with all our scholarship winners from 2023. It was a reminder for me about the high levels of achievement that are possible for our students and that we can all aspire to excellence.

This term, we are letting students know about the changes to cell phone expectations across the country that we will be implementing from the start of Term 2. The expectation will be "away for the day" and you can see more details later in this newsletter.

Ngā manaakitanga

*Tom Webb*  
Tumuaki | Principal





# A Message from the School Board

Kia ora koutou

As we head into Week 5 next week, I would like to acknowledge all of our tauira for the settled start to the year.

A focus on learning and tūmanakotanga is vital for success. You will also see messages in this newsletter about the importance of high levels of attendance contributing to that success.

I would like to acknowledge our scholarship awards for MRGS in 2023, with particular mention of Noma's outstanding achievement.

It was a privilege seeing Noma's choreography expertise in performances last year.

Our excellence awards and scholarships are testament to the hard work of both our tauira and kaiako over a number of years.

Sincere thanks to the kaiko and whānau who have supported the success of our tauira.

Ngā mihi mahana

*Marjet Pot*  
Presiding Member  
School Board



## 2024 Prefects

Introducing this year's Prefect Team.

**Aanisha Shiraz, Alla Ali, Amie Mao, Ansh Trivedi, Asil Kutty, Asma Ibrahim, Ayden Mita, Cassidy Silveira, Cherrish Kaufusi, Christopher Mara, Dzidzor Nanedo, Earl Soriano, Ezra Ogbuze, Fatima Asfia, Frances Damu, Jayden Amarasekera, Jeffrin Joshua, Jessica Huang, Josefa Mataika, Joyce Wang, Kalani Mamea, Lucian Reedy, Maaiasepi Saamuelu, Markus Fatafehi, Mounn Ibdah, Nhi Luong, 'Ofa Tuuefiafi, Prithi Sharma, Raina Singh, Raphael Mara, Rayyan Mohamed Faizal, Sean Rigg, Shadrach Palenapa, Sho Kameyama, Shreyas Reddy Adavalli, Sumayyah Parker, Xander Haddon McGuff, Yussra Abduljabbar, Zoe Chen.**

## Homestay Family Recruitment

This year, we are going to have many new international students coming to start their short or long-term study with us. An important part of their time in New Zealand is the family they stay with. These relationships often last way beyond when the student leaves.

If you have a spare room and a warm heart to welcome an overseas student, 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@mrgrs.school.nz](mailto:amanda.wong@mrgrs.school.nz)**





# NCEA Excellence Awards Evening





# NCEA Excellence Awards Evening



## Phone use

Our policy on phone use in Term 1 is that during lessons students' phones should not be visible and should be on silent. Students can be enabled to use their phone during lessons at the teacher's discretion.

From Term 2, there is a country wide requirement for phones to be "Away for the Day". This means that once students are at school, their phones need to be in their bag, on silent for the duration of the school day. This includes break times.

We are utilising Term 1 to talk with students and staff about this and what this will look like at school, as well as keeping parents updated.

In 2023 our teachers and students did a lot of work to have phones away. This saw an increase in student engagement and focus during learning. We are hopeful with the addition of phones away during break times we will see more interpersonal, face to face connection between students and teachers, students being more involved in activities during lunch time, and less distraction from their phones.

We look forward to your support as this is implemented from the start of Term 2. If you urgently need your child during the school day, please contact admin at 09 621 0050 (ext 0).



## Attendance

Our year has started well. We currently have an average percentage of **85.5%**.

Students who attend all their lessons, on time, every day, are much more likely to succeed in their learning. Please check the attendance emails you receive each week which gives you a summary of your child's attendance. You can also see live updates of their attendance each day via the Kamar portal.

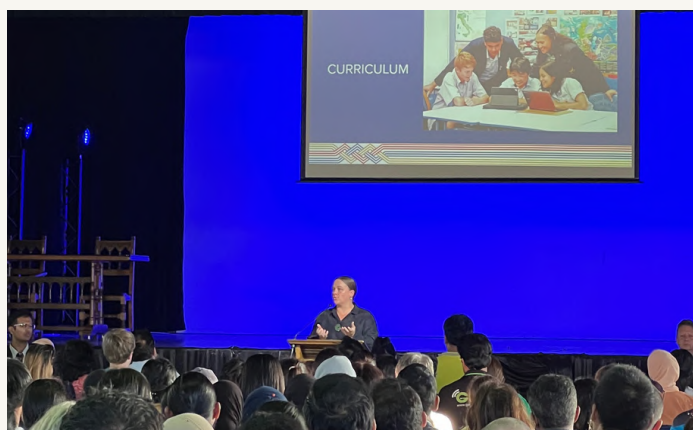
A reminder that we encourage families as much as possible to take holidays during the school holiday period.

## Key Dates

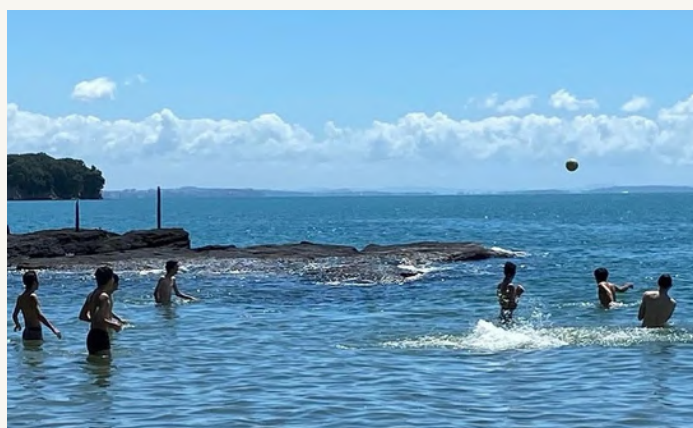
Mon 4th Mar	<b>NCEA Information Evening</b>
Tues 12th Mar	<b>Senior Progress Reports Sent</b>
Tues 14th Mar	<b>Mentoring 1 - Juniors finish at lunchtime</b>
Fri 15th Mar	<b>Junior Progress Reports Sent</b>
Tues 19th Mar	<b>Junior Report Evening</b>
Wed 20th - Sat 23rd Mar	<b>Polyfest</b>
Fri 29th Mar - Tues 2nd Apr	<b>Easter - School Closed</b>
Thurs 4th Apr	<b>Mahurangi Sports Exchange @ MRGS</b>
Thurs 11th Apr	<b>Pukekohe Sports Exchange @ Pukekohe</b>
Fri 12th Apr	<b>End of Term 1</b>



## New Parents' Evening



## International Students visiting Mount Eden, Devonport & North Head







Mount Roskill Grammar School

# SPORT NEWSLETTER



## Senior Tag Tournament

Earlier this week, we had our Senior Boys and Girls Tag Teams competing at the Central North-Western Zone One Day Tournament.

The Senior Girls team who competed in the 2nd division had a tough start against Orewa College however, bounced back with 3 victories in a row against Rangitoto, Carmel and local rivals - Lynfield College.

The Senior Boys in a very competitive Division 1 started off well against Orewa College and had a convincing win over Kaipara as well.

Big thanks to Julia and Sam Pritchard for volunteering their time to coach the students in the lead up to the tournament and on tournament day as well!

### Girls Results:

1-5 vs. Orewa  
3-2 vs. Rangitoto  
10-0 vs. Carmel  
7-3 vs. Lynfield

### Boys Results:

8-2 vs. Orewa  
2-14 vs. Kelston Boys  
2-8 vs. St Paul's  
9-4 vs. Kaipara  
1-7 vs. Westlake Boys

## 2024 Winter Sport Registration

All students who are interested in participating in a summer sport or recreation activity please complete the [Winter Sport 2024 Registration Form](#). Take a look at all of the different options and get involved in something new at MRGS. This registration form will be open until Monday 25th March with team trials and practices beginning after.

All team entries are due in the weeks following this date so commitment is required from the beginning to ensure enough numbers for a team to be entered into a competition.



[@mrgs.sport](#)

## Volunteers Needed! Coaches, Managers & Officials

The MRGS Sports Department is always on the lookout for volunteers to support in coaching, managing and officiating sport throughout the year in all of our Sports Codes. If you are interested and available to support a sport, please contact the Director of Sport - [cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz)



## Sports Draw & Results

Please use the link below for the MRGS Sports Draw. Please ensure you double check the draw the day before a game or event as this document is updated regularly with any last minute venue or time changes.

[2024 MRGS Sports Term 1 - Weekly Sports Draw & Results](#)



# MRGS Annual Swimming Sports

It was a beautiful day to be down at the pool showcasing our swimming talent. We had some really close competition and fantastic splash and dash results. The highlight was definitely the teachers coming a very close second in the special relay.

## Championship results:

Junior Girl Champion: **Duyen Tran**

Junior Girl Runner Up: **Dana Lukmanova**

Junior Boy Champion: **Daniel Mulvaney**

Junior Boy Runner Up: **Finlay Dodd**

Senior Girl Champion: **Emma Winn**

Senior Girl Runner Up: **Leah Crowie**

Senior Boy Champion: **Daniel Kregting**

Senior Boy Runner Up: **Ethan Stocks**



Ms Good - Race Director! Thank you for your organisation and passion.



Macleans' Centre students doing the Splash n Dash!



Start of the girls' butterfly race.



The Staff Relay Team.





## Sporting Successes (cont.)



Congratulations to **Yashwitha Reddy**, a Year 10 student who took out the National Tennis Clay Court Championships winning the Under 14 competition in Wellington last week.

Congratulations to **Elise Bolland** who was a member of the Under 17 Auckland Region Futsal team who won Gold at the National Championships over the Summer Break!



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## Leadership through Peer Mediation



Peer mediation is an approach to resolving conflict where participants have the opportunity to talk through their disputes with the help of trained student mediators. At MRGS, we have a strong program of peer mediation.

This is a great opportunity for our seniors to develop strong conflict resolution skills. It is also very beneficial for our juniors who can have their school conflicts worked through in a confidential and safe environment run by their senior peers.

Keep your eyes out for an advanced training session in March and then Peer Mediation training at the beginning of Term 2.

If any student would like to have a conflict mediated by a senior student, please come to Student Services to make an appointment.

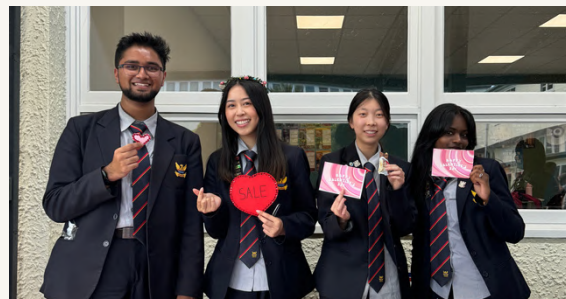




# A week at MRGS



Mr McGirr demonstrating the converging of light with a concave mirror by setting a piece of paper on fire with the sun to his Year 9 science class.



The prefects played Cupid for their first project - Valentine's Day chocolate and card packages.



Eshika and Anish from Room 2 at the Maclean Centre made delicious Valentines cookies and distributed to the staff.



안녕하세요 Annyeonghaseyo! Our first ever Korean group arrived from Onyanghanol High School, South Korea.



Chess club starting the year off right.



Mrs O'Neill's Year 11 Soft Materials Design class learnt how to weave putiputi from Harakeke. They learnt about the tikanga involved and how to treat the harakeke with respect. They are to gift their first putiputi to someone special.

## Uniforms



**To purchase online:** Visit [www.elizabethmichael.co.nz](http://www.elizabethmichael.co.nz)

Click the 'Login/Register' tab at the top right of the page. Register your details and use the school code **RG299** when prompted at the bottom of the page. You will receive a registration email and access to the online uniform shop.

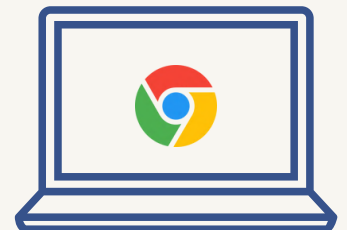
**Alternatively**, you can visit Elizabeth Michael's uniform shop located at **65 New North Road, Eden Terrace**.  
Mon - Thurs: 9 am-5 pm Fri: 9 am-4 pm and Sat: 9 am-1 pm  
For any WINZ clients, please give your account manager **Elizabeth Michael** as your CPU reference. Details are CUR001215763

## Student Devices

MRGS is an established BYOD school, meaning that our students need to have a device to support their learning in the classroom. MRGS' teachers use the Google Classroom platform with all their classes as a way of distributing information, assigning classwork and homework tasks, and giving feedback on assessments.

Through our ICT partner New Era, we give our community access to a purchasing portal called **Acquire**.

New Era seeks to provide our community with the most competitive pricing for any new device purchases, but if you are struggling to provide a device for learning and you have a community services card, we do have a limited number of Chromebooks available for loan for the 2024 academic year.



Students have until **Friday the 1st of March** to apply for these by presenting their parent or guardian's community services card and filling out a letter that outlines their responsibilities as a borrower.

## Stay up to date with everything in the school



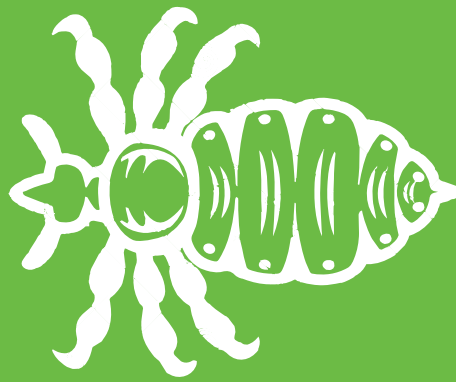
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# LICE *are not* NICE



yuck. how did my  
child get lice/  
nits?

Head lice cannot hop, jump, swim, or fly – they spread strictly through direct contact.

Basically, schoolkids spend a lot of time in close contact with each other, and lice take the opportunity to move from one head to the next. They can also temporarily live on combs, hairbrushes, hats, hair ties, and even cushions or soft furniture. **Getting lice has nothing to do with hygiene** – you could be washing your child's hair every night, and they can still get lice.

Head lice are happy on any head, whether the hair is long, short, young, old, clean, or dirty.

## PREVENTION



Don't share hats, brushes/combs, or other personal items.



Brush hair regularly. Brushing or combing can remove head lice before they have a chance to lay eggs and settle in.



Tie up long hair to help prevent lice from spreading.



Don't hang hats, coats, and scarves too close together at school.



Check your child's hair at least once a week, especially if you know lice have been detected on others in the classroom.

## What are lice?

Head lice are small insects that live on humans' heads and feed on small amounts of blood. Adult head lice lay eggs (often called nits) on the hair, usually within 5 mm of the scalp.



Lice are specialised to live on human heads and can only live for a short time away from one. They don't live anywhere else on the body, or on any other animals.

Head lice are hard to see because they are small, can hide in the hair, and come in various shades of brown and grey. Adult head lice are 1–3 mm long, and the eggs/nits are usually pale in colour and about a millimetre in size.

## TREATMENT



Does your child or someone in your family have lice? Never fear!

The best method for getting rid of lice is **combing**. You must be sure to have a proper comb: fine-toothed, metal, with long teeth is best. **The COMB is KEY!**

### follow these steps

- 1 Comb through hair with a regular comb or brush, to remove any tangles.
- 2 Cover the dry hair with conditioner from roots to tips.
- 3 Separate hair into small sections, then comb from root to tip with the metal, fine-toothed lice comb. Deposit any lice or eggs that are dislodged into a bowl of hot, soapy water.
- 4 Comb each section of hair twice.
- 5 Repeat these steps every 2–3 days, until you haven't found any lice or eggs for 10 days.

### tips

- Comb under a bright light if you can – it's easier to spot the little creatures!
- Head lice shampoos and lotions are available from your chemist, but you must follow the instructions carefully. Some lice have become resistant to these chemicals due to overuse.
- NEVER use harsh chemicals, such as fly spray, flea spray, or kerosene, on your child's head. It's unnecessary and can cause serious harm!