



Mount Roskill Grammar School

NEWSLETTER



ONLY IN STILL WATER DO WE SEE

The Depth of our Reflection



A time of reflection

As Matariki approaches, it brings us together to reflect on past achievements and forge future goals.

From our Principal

Kia ora koutou

I would like to thank all the whānau of senior students who were able to come to our mentoring meetings on Thursday, June 20.

These meetings are an important part of our support for our senior students and an important connection with families. We value the partnership that we have with families and hope that we can build on this over the years as students move through the school.

Congratulations to our dance students for their performances in the Rūpeke Dance Showcase this week. This was an excellent example of the skill of our students and the support and care from the staff involved.

‘Rūpeke’ means to come together and it was lovely to see so many families, friends and staff in the audience gathered to enjoy the wonder and storytelling of dance.

In keeping with the theme of gathering, I would like to thank all kaiako who contribute their efforts to the curricular and extracurricular clubs and teams they manage. As a school, we have achieved great success in areas such as wearable arts, literature, chess, and sports over the course of the term. This would not happen if not for the astounding commitment from kaiako towards the growth of our taura.

With the end of Term 2 only two weeks away, I want to encourage all students to make the most of this time to complete assessments and stay on top of classwork. The school year is passing by very quickly, and we will be into the build-up to external exams before we know it.

Ngā manaakitanga

Tom Webb
Tumuaki | Principal



A Message from the School Board



Kia ora koutou

Matariki is almost here, offering us all a chance to remember the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the coming future.

In this spirit, our recent mentoring conferences have been held, providing a valuable opportunity for tauira, kaiako, and whānau to come together, reflect on their journey, and set goals for the rest of the year.

Junior and senior students will have assessment checkpoints, and tauira in Years 10 to 13 will be making their subject selections for next year.

I hope you all find the time during this busy part of the year to reflect, reset, and rejuvenate.

Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori.

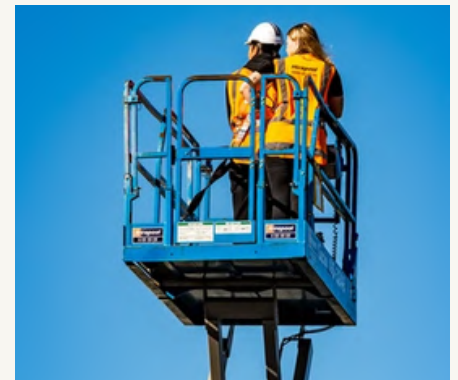
Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board

Careers News

The Girls in Infrastructure event took place on Wednesday 19th of June at Ara Jobs and Skills Hub, at Auckland Airport.

This was an awesome all female event, offering our Year 12 students an opportunity to step into a live construction site, gain hands-on experience with heavy machinery and also engage in meaningful conversations with education providers.

The girls that attended thoroughly enjoyed this experience.



2025 Vocational Courses

We are offering two new vocational courses for students in 2025. These courses are designed for students intending to enter the workforce, undertake an apprenticeship or enrol in further training at a Private Training Establishment when they finish school.

Please email bronwen.wilson@mrqs.school.nz for further information.

13TAM - 13 Te Ara Mahi Transition **20 NCEA Level 3 Credits**

What is the course about?

A transition course that aims to empower Year 13 students to develop the confidence they need to transition from school into the workforce or a Private Training Establishment. Course content will include CV writing, interview & employability skills, teamwork and financial literacy.

13NAI- Nailed It Trades Academy. **60 NCEA Level 3 credits**

What is the course about?

This is a Trades Academy course for Year 13 students interested in a career in a trade such as carpentry, electrical/plumbing, gasfitting and drain laying. Students in this course will spend two days a week at a tertiary provider and three days at MRGS.

Phone use

Away for the day



While on school grounds,
phones must be in our bags,
on silent, unless directed to
be used for learning
by the teacher.

“Away for the Day” also includes headphones and earphones as well, therefore on school grounds, these must be in students’ bags.

A friendly reminder that if any parent or caregiver urgently needs to get a hold of their child during school time, please contact the administration team at 09 621 0050 (ext 0).

Early pick up

If you are needing to pick up your child before the end of the school day (eg. for an appointment), please notify the attendance officer ahead of time by emailing attendance@mrgs.school.nz or phoning **09 621 0069** before 9.30am.

Attendance

Our current attendance percentage is **81.6%**.

As a school, we are doing a great job of remaining consistent with our attendance which is great.

We reminded students in assembly last week that every minute of learning counts. As a parent, you receive weekly emails about your child’s attendance, as well as being able to view attendance on the Kamar parent portal.

Your child also receives the same email about their attendance. We encouraged students to view this email in assembly last week, and identify opportunities to improve their attendance. Ideally, all students are here at school 90% or more of the time.

If your child is unable to attend school, please remember to let us know by emailing attendance@mrgs.school.nz, or via the Kamar parent portal.

Key Dates

Wed 26th June	MRGS Matariki Celebrations MEAR Quiz Night
Thurs 27th - Fri 28th June	Strings Orchestra Camp
Fri 28th June	Matariki - School Closed
Thurs 4th July	MRGS Careers Expo
Fri 5th July	End of Term 2
Mon 22nd July	Start of Term 3
Mon 29th July - Fri 2nd August	Cultural Week

NZ Cybersecurity Challenge

Computer Science students - **Ishraq Mahir** and **Anurag Bobbili** competed in an online qualifying round of capture-the-flag challenges in the NZ Cybersecurity Challenge.

Both students were placed in the Top 150 challengers out of 443 other challengers who are other high schoolers, tertiary students and working adults.

Ishraq and Anurag's participation in this field helps raise awareness about cybersecurity and the risks in cyberspace to our students.

They will go onto the next round which will be held at Waikato University. We wish them the best of luck!



Education Perfect ANZ Maths Championship 2024



Last May, 400 MRGS Maths students competed in the EP Maths World Competition, solving problems, practicing skills and answering 224,935 Maths questions.

MRGS placed 4th overall out of 1,535 schools around the world, 2nd in NZ and 1st for NZ schools of our size.

This year, 46 of our students gained awards.

Annie Ma in Year 11 was placed 2nd in the world out of over 70,000 other students. Her efforts were recognised with a \$150 prize voucher from Education Perfect. Another great mention was **Divya Prasad** in Year 9 who placed 9th worldwide.

Congratulations to all our Mathematicians who contributed to this outstanding result!

Pathways - Police Visit



On Friday, June 13, three local policemen visited our pathways students to share their invaluable experiences and insight of the job.

The officers expressed that they would like to see an increase in representation of Pasifika and Māori within the police work force. The police whānau value diversity and seek to inspire and encourage the next generation to apply.

This visit undoubtedly helped our Year 13 taura feel inspired and to consider police work.

A week at MRGS



The students in Ms Luxford's Year 9 Food class each created a short/sweet/soft dough finger food for an identified cultural occasion.

J'adore les croissants! Mr McAlpine's Year 9 French class enjoying a French breakfast.



MRGS students attended the Pasefika Leadership Conference at Dilworth College on Friday 14th of June.

MacLean Centre students participating in Speed Stacking. A great activity for hand-eye coordination, teamwork and fun!



On June 11, Year 12 Classical Studies students had a great day exploring the Auckland CBD and War Memorial Museum to learn more about Classical architecture found in Tamaki Makaurau.



Year 12 Health Science Academy Students visiting Middlemore Hospital's units.

World Refugee Day

9 of our senior former refugee students, from Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Syria, and Somalia, attended the World Refugee Day event at Mangere College on June 14. We celebrated the strength and resilience of our refugee community.

We thank Mangere College for organizing the event and for their warm greetings. The event included fun activities by RASNZ and Mix It, and a speaker from the Ministry of Education. Staff took part in a workshop on how to deal with students who have experienced trauma.

Together, we will build hope and a strong, brighter future from the celebrations from the day.



Chess Power Auckland Cluster



Our MRGS chess players played in the Chess Power Auckland Cluster tournament on the 6th June.

The good news is that they crushed Lynfield, toying with them like pawns to our gambit in a way that will ensure that the very name Mount Roskill Grammar School will be whispered by their senior players as they contemplate with awe the pure power of the result.

In the end, we came second to MAGS, but we still have a chance of making Nationals because we're hosting the Regionals so they had to let us en passant.

Thank you to Mrs Burns and Mr MacDougall for their continuous support!

Book Prize from the AM Show

In the first week of June, Ms Kelly entered a competition on the AM Show for a chance to win a book prize pack of all the newly announced finalists for the NZ Children & Young Adult Book Awards.

She explained that she would love to win the books for our school library, to help replace our collection that was lost in the Auckland flooding that occurred last year.

She received the news that she had won and has generously donated them to our library. Head over and check out the amazing selection – there's a perfect read waiting for everyone!



MRGS PERFORMING ARTS

Showquest - Toi Wearable Arts



'Paitele' - won the 'Excellent Garment Construction' award & the top prize 'Star of the Night' for senior schools.

Pa'itele was a sea monster in Samoan mythology that protected the island of Apolima. It would swallow its victims whole; no canoes in open water were safe.

But one young Palauli chief, Alo bravely chose to be swallowed whole by *Pa'itele*, attacking from the inside causing her to convulse in pain. *Pa'itele* didn't mean any harm in protecting her island - her intentions were pure.

In the waters of Apolima, *Pa'itele* was a symbol of protection and instinct, like many women in Samoa.



On Friday, June 14, hours of behind-the-scenes mahi was finally showcased at the Central/West Auckland evening of 'Showquest' in the Toi Wearable Arts division.

Nicole Sue (pictured above on right) endured the long process of design and creation as our head designer, supported by **Tanishka Desai** (her assistant) and **Frances Damu** (her model). We had a fun but long day of rehearsing, emergency repairing, meeting judges, and watching other school's beautiful creations.



All of our students' hard work paid off as we learnt we had won the award for 'Excellent Garment Construction' and the top prize 'Star of the Night' for senior schools!

Congratulations to Nicole on her resilience and creativity, and to Tanishka and Frances in their integral mahi towards this collaboration. Big thank you to Miss Gillies for her support!

We can't wait to hear if we are selected to join the 'World of Wearable Arts' competition held in Wellington in October!

Rūpeke - Dance Showcase



Rūpeke - Dance Showcase





Mount Roskill Grammar School

SPORT NEWSLETTER



Football Success

A huge congratulations to our premier boys football team who have reached the quarter finals of the College Sport knockout cup.

Other schools that went through to quarter finals are Long Bay College, Glendowie College, Howick College, Sacred Heart College, Auckland Grammar School, Rosmini College and Westlake Boys.

Please come and support our players as they play at home against Liston School in our College Sport League on Monday. Kick off is at 3.30pm.

Well done to all our boys and girls footballers this season, competing hard on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Great team spirit being displayed by all.

MRGS Sport Facebook Page

Psst! Guess what?

Our Facebook page is back up and running!

Follow us to catch up on all the latest sports news, draws/results and successes.



MRGS Sport



@mrgs.sport

Follow the MRGS Sports page on Instagram for up-to-date information regarding sports and recreational activities happening at the school during lunch and after school.

Sports Draw & Results

Please use the link below for the MRGS Sports Draw for Term 2. 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.

MRGS Sports T2 - Weekly Sports Draw & Results

Basketball Successes

Congratulations to our junior girls who fought hard to win convincingly against Mount Albert Grammar on Wednesday, June 19. The final score was 45-13.

At home, our two junior boys teams (pictured on the right) fought hard to produce some excellent basketball. Well done to the blue team who battled hard against a very strong St Peters, and congratulations to the red who beat Auckland Grammar convincingly.

Lots of potential for the future!



Alumni News



Andrew Tuala (pictured middle above) is an ex-student of MRGS and has just been named one of the players in the Manu Samoa Squad for 2024.

This announcement was made ahead of the upcoming July Test matches which would be held in Samoa's Apia Park, with Manu Samoa facing Italy on July 5 and Spain on July 13.

Andrew has a prolific career in the sport, playing for the New South Wales Waratahs in Super Rugby and the Houston SaberCats in Major League Rugby. We wish him all the best of luck!



Stay up to date with everything in the school



[@mountroskillgrammarschool](https://www.instagram.com/mountroskillgrammarschool)



[Mount Roskill Grammar School](https://www.facebook.com/mountroskillgrammarschool)



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRESENTS



Careers Expo 2024

Come along and find out more about career pathways, courses and what the tertiary providers can offer you!

Date

Thursday 4th of July

Time

12:30pm - 4:00pm

Location

MRGS Hall



This event caters to all students from Year 9 – 13 during school hours and parents are also welcome to attend after school.

- Learn about tertiary study
- Discover new career pathways
- Connect with industry leaders!

For more info please contact
careersdepartment@mrgs.school.nz

