



Mount Roskill Grammar School NEWSLETTER



TEAMWORK BUILDS TRUST;
Trust builds growth



Success is better when shared

MRGS' successes stem from the positive relationships fostered between our community, our staff and our students.

From our Principal

Kia ora koutou

Last week was a very successful Winter Tournament Week with 12 of our teams competing in competitions across Auckland and Whangārei.

There is a summary of results later in this newsletter and I want to thank all of the staff and volunteers that supported our students through the week.

We are in the middle of our Term 3 Exams and senior students have been busy sitting practice assessments for their external NCEA exams. Also included this year have been the Numeracy and Literacy co-requisites for NCEA. This is the first year that the co-requisites are compulsory for NCEA. Students have several opportunities to sit the tests in reading, writing and numeracy.

All students will now need to pass these assessments to show they have the required level of literacy and numeracy to gain NCEA.

This has been a major focus for our teachers this year to ensure that students are improving their numeracy and literacy skills for the completion of the assessments.

Thank you to all parents and caregivers that joined us for our Junior Report Evening on Wednesday 4 September. Building a partnership with home is important to us as we support our students in their learning so we value these opportunities to meet with you and discuss your child's progress.

Congratulations to our Level 1 Drama students who performed in the production of Gangster's Paradise. There were some expert performances from the students and they were supported by Year 10 Dance and Drama students.

Ngā manaakitanga

Tom Webb
Tumuaki | Principal



A Message from the School Board

Kia ora koutou

I would like to acknowledge the commitment of both kaiako, tauira and whānau needed for tournament week.

It is wonderful to see not only the results, but also the connections within teams being strengthened.

Another way we have historically strengthened connections for our Year 13s is through Year 13 camp. It is great to see this opportunity back on the calendar.

I would like to acknowledge the exceptional service from Wayne McDougall, our chess coach, for the past 13 years.

Wayne has epitomized all three of our values, tūmanakotanga, manaakitanga and whanaugatanga and we are so grateful for his service and care for our tauira.

Ngā mihi mahana

Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board



Year 13 Camp

Next year, we will be hosting the Year 13 Camp at the Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre. This camp will run from Monday 10th till Friday 14th of February, 2025.

We still need 100 students to register in order for the camp to go ahead! If you are interested, please head to the school accounts' office to put down a \$50 deposit by 26th of September.

Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre (MOEC) is on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf and incorporates activities such as kayaking, sailing, climbing, archery, confidence course and problem solving.

Year 13 Camp is one of the highlights on the school calendar and a final opportunity for students to experience learning in the outdoors whilst strengthening connections at the beginning of their final year at MRGS.



Recognising Wayne McDougall



After 13+ years of coaching and mentoring students at MRGS in the fine art of playing chess, Wayne McDougall will not be returning to MRGS due to being diagnosed with terminal cancer. We share this information with Wayne's support.

Mr Wayne McDougall began coaching Chess in 2011 when his eldest son Nathan first started at Mount Roskill Grammar School in Year 9.

Wayne has not only been a help but been the driving force of how successful chess is at MRGS.

His selfless dedication is nothing short of legendary and has had a profound effect on the outcomes for students.

We have had students win prestigious titles such as Auckland Girls player of the year (**Caroline Yan** several times) and qualifying for the Chess Power finals every year. Wayne has also made it possible for MRGS to be represented in Australasian competitions – taking a team over to Australia for three years in a row.

If anyone would like to drop off messages, you are welcome to do so via the admin office. We are also looking at other ways we can support Wayne and his whānau.

Three students in particular excelled there:

- 1st Equal Player in Junior High School at the international Secondary Schools Australasian Chess Champions held in Melbourne - **Joe Wang**
- Open Girls Secondary Schools Australasian Chess Champions, for 3rd successive year – **Sylvia McDougall**
- Open Girls Secondary Schools Australasian Chess Champions, for 3rd successive year – **Celia Chanwong**

He has also organised for teams and individuals to participate in the Chess Power competitions including transporting students to the competition and supporting them there.

Wayne has organised for the students to go to places such as Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch for the Chess Power finals – again giving up his time to be there for the students over the whole weekend.

Wayne has given of his time and skills unstintingly to help support chess at MRGS without complaint and with unswerving enthusiasm. His support and input is highly valued and we owe a debt to him we can never repay. Wayne's passion for chess and commitment to helping others grow has left an indelible mark on countless young minds.

Written by Mrs Fiona Burns



Phones & Earphones

As we have moved through this term, we have noticed an increase in the visibility of phones and ear phones during break times.

It is a requirement that phones and earphones are “away for the day”, once students are onsite and are not to be visible.

If students are seen with their phones or earphones out during break times, they are being reminded to put away. Some students who are continuously having these items visible will be having them confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.

Please support us at home by having a conversation with your child about keeping their phones away for the duration of the school day.



Change in Timings

Please note that start times for **Wednesday 18th of September is at 9am** instead of the usual 9.20am.

This change is to accommodate the senior exam schedule.

Attendance

Our current attendance percentage is **79%**.

It’s really important that students are aware of their own attendance, which they can view each week in the email sent to their student emails.

Parents/Caregivers also receive this email, and can view their child’s attendance live each day via the Kamar Portal.

Our expectation is that students are at school 90% or more of the time, as this supports their learning and achievement.

Key Dates	
Mon 12th August - Fri 20th Sept	Mobile Dental Unit on site
Mon 9th - 20th September	Senior Exams
Mon 16th - Fri 20th September	Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week)
Wed 18th September	Day starts at 9am
Fri 20th September	Girls Futsal Festival
Wed 25th September	Junior Progress Reports are distributed
Wed 25th September	Sports Awards
Fri 27th September	End of Term 3
Mon 14th October	Start of Term 4



Homestay Families Wanted!



In Term One 2025, we will have many new international students coming to start their short or long-term study with us.

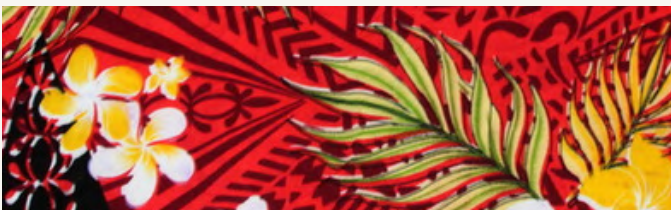
An important part of their time in New Zealand is the family they stay with. It can be a great cultural exchange experience for the whole family and relationships often last beyond the student's departure.

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 host families is \$350 per week. A police vet is necessary before hosting commences.

For more information contact Amanda Wong at amanda.wong@mrgs.school.nz

Pacific Academy - Tutoring Programme



Pacific Academy is a tutoring programme run in several high schools across South and West Auckland. This programme looks to provide students an opportunity to receive after-school subject tutoring from current University of Auckland students.

This tertiary sponsored tuition programme helps any Year 12 and 13 Pasifika students with subjects including Statistics, Calculus, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

They are running weekly sessions in Term 3 across three locations in Tāmaki Makaurau as well as a study ako in the September-October school holidays.

We are plan accordingly so we have the right mentors available at each location and also being able to share other opportunities available that align with your study aspirations.

Locations for 2024:

- Te Papa Ako o Tai Tonga (Univeristy of Auckland south campus) in Manukau
- St Peters College in Epsom
- Avondale College in Avondale
- Resources available for outside of Auckland registrations

If any Year 12 and 13 Pasifika students are keen to attend Pacific Academy, please register your interest [here](#).



Gangster's Paradise - Level 1 Drama

“Aw nah, I ain’t joining no Drama club!”

Miss Gillies' Level 1 Drama had an awesome time preparing and performing their sold out production of ‘Gangster’s Paradise’.

Written by local award-winning playwright Leki Jackson Bourke, the story follows wannabe gangster, Jayden who is on the verge of being expelled from St. Coolio's High until Brother G offers him a way out... by taking the lead role in the school production of West Side Story.

It was awesome to have our Level 2 and 3 theatre technology students work backstage on these shows, making the impossible possible, and it was an honour to work with students from our Year 10 Dance and Drama classes as our ensemble for this show.

Thanks to all our audience members for the love and support at the shows!

Written by Miss Gillies - Drama Kaiako





Mount Roskill Grammar School

SPORT NEWSLETTER



Curling Success

Congratulations to our curlers who competed in the Auckland SS Curling finals.

MRGS Rijul's Stones placed 1st in the mixed division and 3rd overall in the competition. Rice Sweepers placed 3rd in the mixed, 6th overall and Sweep Dreams placed 3rd boys/open team.

All students across all the schools also voted for a spirit of curling award for good sportsmanship /sportswomanship and it was shared between a Lynfield student and an MRGS student - **Christina Xu.**



Term 4 Summer Sports - Registrations Now Open

Please click [HERE](#) for details and to register for Term 4 summer sports. Registrations close on Monday 19th of September. For any questions, contact: sports.department@mrgs.school.nz



[**@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.

Senior School Sports Awards

Our annual senior school sports awards are on **Wednesday September 25th.** We are looking forward to celebrating the efforts and successes of our students this year! Full details to follow.



Winter Tournament Week Wrap Up

Congratulations to all of our teams competing at Tournament Week last week!

Thank you to all of our coaches, managers, officials and supporters for your endless work and commitment to our teams, your mahi is much appreciated by the players and school.

Thank you to all of our Year 13's who played their last games, we appreciate your loyalty and service to your sport.

Special mention to the MRGS Curling team - Rijul's Stones who won gold in the curling tournament at the NISS.

Full Tournament Week results:

Basketball

- Basketball Junior Boys:
7th in Zone 1 Boys Open Grade
- Basketball Senior Boys:
8th in Zone 1 AA Boys Grade & qualified for Nationals
- Basketball Senior Girls:
10th in Zone 1 AA Girls Grade

Climbing:

- 22nd for Stella Boyd & 39th for Skylah Kyle in Boulder and Top Rope

Hockey

- Hockey Boys
5th in Mayhill Cup Tournament
- Hockey Girls
6th in Mary Clinton Tournament

Curling

- Rijul's Stones won Gold as overall winners of the NISS tournament.
- Rijul's Stones won Gold for mixed grade
- Rice Sweepers won silver for mixed grade
- Sweep Dreams won bronze for boys grade

Football

- Football Boys
16th in Malcom Cowie Tournament
- Football Girls
20th in Kathy Seaward Tournament

Netball

- 27th place in Upper North Island Secondary School Netball Tournament



Winter Tournament Week

