



Mount Roskill Grammar School

# NEWSLETTER



SUCCESS IS THE JOURNEY OF TURNING  
**Dreams into Achievements**



## Polyfest Success

Our Tongan Girls placed first in their  
Faha'iula performance!



## From our Principal

Kia ora koutou,

We are coming to the end of a very busy and productive term. Eleven weeks is long for Term 1, particularly with so much going on in school.

Our Kapa Haka, Samoan and Tongan groups performed at Polyfest last week. Despite the mixed weather, our groups performed with mana and passion.

Our Kapa Haka group performed on Thursday, 3 April and were supported by a large group of students from the Primary and Intermediate schools. It was great to see the Roskill Campus community coming together to support each other.

On Friday, 4 April, our Tongan Group completed two performances - they opened the Tongan Stage in the morning with the Lakalaka and then performed the Faha'iula in the afternoon. Despite the stormy weather and constant downpour, the group performed very well and achieved first place for the Faha'iula.

On Saturday, 5 April, our Samoan Group performed to a large audience around the Samoan stage and had strong support from the crowd. Their performance was powerful and graceful, and they left a lasting impression.

We are incredibly proud of these performances. I want to congratulate all students, tutors, whānau, and staff who were involved with the groups. You can be proud of your efforts and know that the hours of practice have paid off.

Congratulations also to our 1st XI Boys Hockey Team, who beat Kristin School 2-1 last week to gain promotion to the Premier grade. It was great to see many students making the trip to the North Shore to watch the game and support the team. Good luck for the rest of the season.

Ngā manaakitanga

*Tom Webb*

Tumuaki | Principal





# A Message from the School Board

Kia ora, talofa lava and greetings,

January 30th seems a long time ago. If you feel that way, congratulations, you have worked hard – as a student, teacher and support person! Lots of things have happened in Term 1, from academic learning to extracurricular activities. Ka pai tō mahi/Malo le galue malosi/thanks for your efforts to turn up to school every day to learn from and with your kaiako/faiaoga/teacher!

What a privilege it's been a part of your school life and celebration in Term 1:

- NCEA Excellence Awards
- Iftar Night (fast-breaking evening meal in the month of Ramadan)
- Kapa Haka, Fiefia and Fiafia nights and the 50th Anniversary of Polyfest watching with great pride our Māori, Tongan and Samoan students performing with heart and soul.

It is an honour to work closely with the Board and the Tumuaki/Pule Aoga/Principal Mr Webb, to ensure we have the right resources and oversight to help you achieve academic achievements that provide opportunities to face the world at large!

Enjoy the holiday and Easter break. Be safe, be well, be kind and keep smiling!

Looking forward to seeing you in Term 2, Monday 28th April – reenergised, refreshed and committed to be the best learning version of yourself through the Roskill Way and Roskill Values of Manaakitanga, Tūmanakotanga and Whanaungatanga!

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Ia manuia, blessings.

*Leatuao Larry Tupa'i-Lavea*  
School Board Presiding Member



## MRGS Open Day 2025 - Wednesday 14 May



We invite future students and their whānau to our Open Day.

You will have the opportunity to hear the principal speak to students and families at 3.30pm, 4.30pm and 6pm in the Butler Hall.

Following each presentation, our MRGS students will lead you on a school tour where you will meet our expert teachers from various departments and speak with our fantastic students and student leaders.

We are excited to meet many new faces and hope to see you all there!



## Uniform

As we move into the winter months, and days become colder and wetter, please support your child with having the appropriate uniform.

Students must be in the correct uniform every day, no matter the weather. Whilst sandals are a part of our uniform, **students cannot wear socks and sandals together.**

Please visit our uniform shop over the holidays to purchase jumpers, jackets and scarves to protect your child against all weather conditions. Thank you for your support.



## Driving and Parking

Driving is a big responsibility. We ask all students who drive to school to abide by the road rules, including the rule that if you are on a restricted license, you should not be driving with passengers. Please be mindful of the lower speed limits that apply close to school so we can show manaakitanga to our Primary and Intermediate School whānau.

Students should not park on school grounds, which includes down the driveway between MRGS and MRI/MRP. This parking lot is for the staff of all schools. Please be respectful when parking on other roads.

**Year 13's cannot drive their cars at lunch time.**

## Out of School for Lunch

Year 13's are afforded the privilege of leaving school at lunch time to use the local eating places - Fiesta Lunch Bar, Delux and the closeby supermarket.

Students should leave via the Science exit gate, go buy food and return to school straight away. All students must be back on school gate prior to 2.10pm in order to be at period 5 on time.

## Attendance

Our current attendance percentage is **82.4%**.

This is a positive start to the year and a statistic we hope to maintain and improve over the year.

As we move into our winter terms, please remember to contact us at **attendance@mrqs.school.nz** if your child is absent from school - please include the reason for the absence.

## Key dates

Mon 28th April	<b>Start of Term 2</b>
Wed 30th April	<b>Pukekohe Exchange @ MRGS</b>
Tues 6th May	<b>NCEA Information Event</b>
Tues 13th May	<b>Senior Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite Information Event</b>
Wed 14th May	<b>Open Day 3.30-7pm</b>
Fri 23rd May	<b>Blood Day</b>
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Jazz Band Camp</b>
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	<b>Kings' Birthday (School Closed)</b>
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>Mentoring 2</b>

# Academic Info Evenings

## NCEA Information Evening

This event is designed for parents and caregivers with children who are starting NCEA this year.

Please come along and learn about how NCEA works and what support is available for your students at school.



**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> May  
**Venue:** Learning Hub  
**Time:** 6pm – 7pm



## Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite Evening

This event is for parents of senior students who are working towards the literacy and numeracy co-requisite this year.

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May  
**Venue:** Learning Hub  
**Time:** 6pm – 6.45pm

Please come along to learn about the different ways students can work towards the co-requisite and the support available to students at school.

## Puketāpapa Youth Foundation Breakfast



On the 7th of April, our head prefects and School Board student representative, accompanied by Mr McGibbon, were very excited to be invited to the Puketāpapa Youth Foundation breakfast.

While we were there, we had an amazing time networking and discussing different issues that come up often within our communities with the student leaders of Lynfield College and members of the PYF team. We also had a great time bonding over some delicious breakfast and getting to know each other's schools better.

Overall, it was a very fun and productive day for leadership, and we're looking forward to using what we have learnt today towards our school and the wider community. We'd like to thank Puketāpapa Youth Foundation for inviting us to this event and for all the hard work they did to organise this.

*Written by Martia Adato*





# Polyfest - Kapa Haka

## Celebrating the 50th year of Polyfest.

Under the strong leadership of our Kaitātaki Tane & Wahine - Hayden Carpendale and Praise Paala, the seniors of Mana Taiohi 2025 stepped up and led the fairly new kapa to a Mana enhanced stand at Polyfest that made their kura, whānau and hāpori very proud.

A huge congratulations to Mana Taiohi. Small in size but big at heart the Kapa of 22 performers, through pure passion for the culture and dedication to represent their whānau and kura with pride accomplished their goal. To leave the stage with no regrets.

Mana Taiohi have grown together and in confidence with the hopes that we put that same passion, drive and determination to be our best, into everything we do in school and in life.

This is only the beginning and we look forward to becoming stronger as a unit as we navigate the many WERO we will face throughout the year. Thank you to all who have supported us along the way.

Mana HĪ!!

Mana HĀ!!

Mana TAIOHI!!

Hui e....taiaiki e!





# Polyfest - Tongan Group

The MRGS Tongan Group has had a very busy Term 1. Our group gathered every Tuesday - Saturday for eight weeks to learn, explore and celebrate Tongan culture.

Gym 1 became a second home for the students, parents and staff that supported the group. Polyfest season is always a highlight for the students, and they poured a lot of blood, sweat and tears into their performance.

The students represented MRGS with pride and passion. They opened the Polyfest Tonga Stage with their Lakalaka performance and then the girls performed the Faha'iula in the afternoon. The students were very excited to place 1st for Faha'iula. What an amazing achievement!

We would like to thank all the staff and families that supported us and especially thank Mafi Malanga for over 30 years of tutoring at Mount Roskill Grammar School.





# Polyfest - Samoan Group

**THEME: MEASINA TU'UFA'ASOLO: "He oha nō tua, he taonga tuku iho!"**

**LEGACY - a treasure handed down"**

Our Samoan Group performance was a vibrant celebration of culture, identity, and community spirit. We have a multicultural group with members representing Tangata Whenua, Tongan, Niuean, Cook Islanders, Tuvaluan, Tokelauan, Pakeha and Samoan who have come together to enhance their identity and represent their ancestors.

Months of dedication, hard work, and unity culminated in a powerful and moving display of traditional Samoan customs, dance, and oratory that was met with resounding applause and admiration.

The 2025 Polyfest was more than just a performance—it was a platform for our students to stand tall in their identity, to connect with their roots, and to express their pride in being Samoan. The energy, passion, and unity displayed by the group were a testament to the strength and beauty of our culture.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the tutors, parents, school staff, and sponsors Leatua whānau, Tuisamau 'aiga and all the parents who have donated financially and food who have made this performance possible. A special thank you goes to our cultural leaders who passed down knowledge and inspired excellence in our performers. Fa'afetai tele lava.





## Careers

### Industry Careers Day Trip



@mrsgs\_careers

On Tuesday, 8th of April, we had 100 of our senior students enjoy a trip out to the 'Industry Careers Day' event held at YMCA Lynfield.

This event featured businesses from various industries, including Zeil, IKEA, On Demand, Reliance Utilities, Barfoot & Thompson, BCITO (New Zealand's Leading Building and Construction Apprenticeship Provider), SkyCity Auckland, NZ Skills & Education College, and Auckland Institute of Studies.

The feedback from our students has been positive, with many expressing a particular interest in SkyCity and IKEA's stations, stating they found these stations the most enjoyable and informative.

A big thank you to Carlos Cheung (MP for Mt Roskill), Ines and Adrian from the Auckland Business Chamber and the other professionals there for a great initiative.



### Nailed It Course



This year, we set up a Year 13 Trades Academy for students interested in electrical and carpentry apprenticeships. Monday to Wednesday, the students are onsite at MRGS where they have a program of work designed to help them with their future in a trade. This course includes literacy, numeracy, financial literacy, careers education and fitness. Students also had an opportunity to sit their learner driver's licence and First Aid Certificate.

On Thursday and Friday, the students go to NZMA in Mt Wellington where they undertake practical and theory work in their chosen trade. The feedback from the students in the Nailed It course has been positive. The hands-on experiences have been incredibly well-received, allowing our students to explore these essential skills in a practical setting.



Mount Roskill Grammar School

# SPORT NEWSLETTER



## MRGS Cricket Surprise

Our 1st XI Cricketers had a great surprise at their end-of-season celebration.

New Zealand International Ajaz Patel presented our awards and offered some life changing advice to our team and parents.

Ajaz became only the third bowler to take 10 wickets in an Innings in an International test (against India - 2021).



## Chess Power's School Checkmate Challenge

On Thursday, 3rd April, MRGS competed in Chess Power's School Checkmate Challenge against four other schools in the senior division. The tournament was full of competent, strong players and consisted of 5 rounds, with the prize being a ticket to the Chess Power Nationals.

With help from veteran players Adrian Mayo, Spike Murray, and Shauryya Gupta, alongside new talent like Sanay Pai, Xin En Weng, and Omar Khan, MRGS finished in first place! Congratulations to Alec Cruz, who won all five of his matches, not receiving a single loss. Also, a shout out to Adrian Mayo coming second overall. A big thank you to the entire team.



[@mrgs.sport](https://www.instagram.com/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

[MRGS Sports T2 - Weekly Sports Draw & Results](#)



# Mahurangi Exchange @ Mahurangi College

Yesterday, a group of our students travelled to Warkworth to take part in the annual Mahurangi Exchange at Mahurangi College.

It was a fantastic day filled with sunshine, sportsmanship, and spirited competition. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with our friends from Mahurangi College and continue the tradition of friendly rivalry and mutual respect.

Representing us on the sunny day were our boys' and girls' teams in basketball, football, and hockey, along with our girls' netball and boys' rugby teams.

A big thank you to Mahurangi College for hosting us, and to all the students, coaches, and supporters who made the day such a success!

