



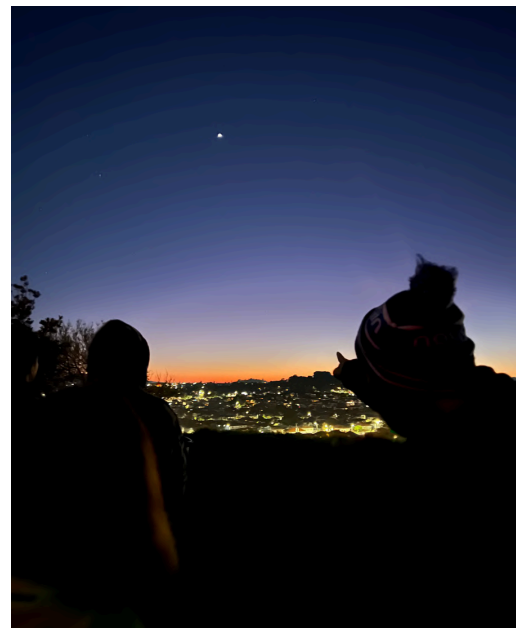
Mount Roskill Grammar School

# NEWSLETTER



A MOMENT TO PAUSE

## A Lifetime to Learn



## Looking back to leap forward

As Term 2 draws to a close, we come together to reflect on past achievements and forge future goals for our tauira.



## From our Principal

Kia ora koutou,

We recently celebrated Matariki at school with campus performances on Wednesday, 11 June and a hikoi to Puketāpapa in the early hours of Wednesday, 18 June.

This was a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the present and look to the future.

This week marks the last week of Term 2, and as we are halfway through the school year, it is a good opportunity to review progress in learning and achievement.

I encourage all students to reflect on the goals that they have set for themselves for the year and celebrate the small wins they have made along the way. For senior students, it is also a great opportunity to review the NCEA credits they have achieved so far and what they need to do to complete their upcoming assessments.

Term 3 is set to be another busy term, and one of the events that I am looking forward to is our Cultural Week. Our Prefects are taking the lead with the organisation of the week and have been promoting this in assembly.

The week culminates in our Cultural Dress Day on Friday, 25 July.

This is an excellent time to celebrate the diverse cultures that we have in this school and the strength that this gives us as a community by being open to other perspectives and learning to work alongside people of different backgrounds.

Another time to acknowledge our diversity was during Pride Week, where we celebrated our Rainbow students and staff. Along with the activities during the week, we heard some very powerful messages from students about what makes school a safe place for them.

This is aligned closely with our school values of Manaakitanga and Whanaungatanga - raising the mana of all people at MRGS and creating a strong family-like environment in the school. We do not always get this right, but we continue to work towards these aims.

Ngā manaakitanga

*Tom Webb*

Tumuaki | Principal



# A Message from the School Board

Kia ora, talofa lava and greetings,

We proudly celebrate the richness of our diverse community through events that uplift identity, culture, and belonging. Two significant occasions—Pride Week and Matariki—are deeply embedded in the life of our kura/school, offering moments of reflection and unity.

During Week 7, our school came alive with colour and aroha as we celebrated Pride Week—a time to affirm the identities of our LGBTQIA+ whānau, students, and staff.

As a multicultural school, we recognise the importance of intersectionality—supporting our fa'afafine, fa'atama, takatāpui, and other diverse identities within our Māori and Pasefika communities. Pride Week reminds us that every person has their own identity, and all deserve respect.

Shortly after Pride Week, we welcomed Matariki, marked by the rising of the Matariki star cluster in the pre-dawn sky. This is a sacred time of whakaaroaro/reflection, whakanui/celebration, and whakamahere/planning for the future.

At MRGS, Matariki is honoured through kapa haka, kai shared with whānau, and mahi toi/creative arts.

Students learn about the significance of each whetū/star in the Matariki cluster, and how they relate to the environment, wellbeing, and whakapapa.

Matariki is also a time to remember those who have passed—"kua whetūrangitia rātou"—they have become stars. It is a moment to pause, give thanks, and look forward with manako/hope.

Both Pride Week and Matariki reflect the heart of MRGS: a place where ako/learning is reciprocal, where fa'aaloalo/respect is lived, and where every student can stand tall in their identity.

These celebrations are not just events—they are expressions of our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, to equity, and to nurturing a school culture where all ākonga/students feel seen, heard, and valued.

*"Ko te mana o te tangata, e kore e taea te tango."  
"E lē mafai ona aveeseina le mamalu o le tagata."  
The dignity of a person cannot be taken away.*

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Ia manuia, blessings.

Leatuaio Larry Tupa'i-Lavea  
School Board Presiding Member



## School Board Elections Are Coming!

The triennial elections for our School Board will be held this year. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of our school by standing for election or voting for parent representatives.

More details, including how to nominate and vote, will be shared soon. You can make a difference by standing as a candidate or voting for parent representatives who share your values and vision.

All eligible voters will receive a nomination form. You can use this form to nominate yourself or someone in your community. Nomination forms will be emailed out by Friday, 18 July.

**If you have changed your email or postal address, please contact the admin office to update your details. It's important that we have your up-to-date information.**

If you have any enquiries, please contact the Returning Officer at [returning.officer@mrgrs.school.nz](mailto:returning.officer@mrgrs.school.nz)





## Uniform

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of hoodies, scarves and non-uniform jackets being worn at school.

Students must be in the correct uniform every day, no matter the weather; there is no excuse to be wearing a non-uniform item, and students will be asked to correct their uniforms at school.

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.



## Punctuality

Being on time is an important and highly valued life skill, demonstrating strong self-management skills and respect towards others you are meeting with, or in our school's case, teaching and learning with. Please ensure your child is supported and encouraged to be on time for school each day.

Top tip - prepare your uniform, school bag, PE gear, and any other relevant learning tools the night before, to ensure you're prepared.

## Nurses at MRGS



We are very lucky to have an enhanced based health service, with a fantastic team of nurses to support our students.

Learning remains the priority, and **students are encouraged to utilise the nurses during break times, seeking support only during class time if they are extremely unwell.** Please keep your child home if they are unwell.

## Reporting attendance via SchoolBridge

Attendance % for school - 80.1%

If you have the SchoolBridge app, it's an easy three clicks to inform us of your child's absence.

If you have yet to sign up for SchoolBridge, you can use the following instructions below to download the app.

[Schoolbridge App Download Instructions](#)

## Key dates

Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Teacher Only Day (School Closed)</b>
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Start of Term 3</b>
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Jul - Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Dental Planet Visit</b>
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Junior Report Evening</b>
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Jul - Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Cultural Week</b>
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	<b>Refugee Community Hui Y13 Common Room, 6-8PM</b>
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Pasefika NCEA Fono Learning Hub, 5.30-7PM</b>
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Course Info Evening Learning Hub, 6-7.30PM</b>
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug - Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Team Photos</b>
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Mid-Term Break (School Closed)</b>
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Winter Tournament Week</b>

## Course Information Evening

On Wednesday, 30 July, we are holding our annual course information evening. We will have our careers advisor and heads of departments from across the curriculum available to answer any questions parents, caregivers, and students might have about courses for 2026.

**Date:** Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July

**When:** 6 pm – 7.30 pm

**Where:** Learning Hub



## Opening dates for 2026 Option Selection



### Senior course selection for 2026:

- Opens on Monday, 4 August
- Closes on Friday, 29 August

### Junior course selection for 2026:

- Opens on Monday, 25 August
- Closes on Friday, 19 September

Students will make their course selection online and will receive information about the process in Hui Ako and assemblies at the start of Term 3.

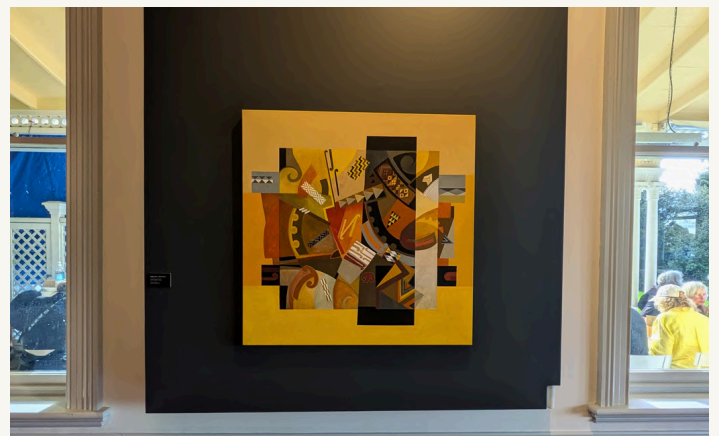
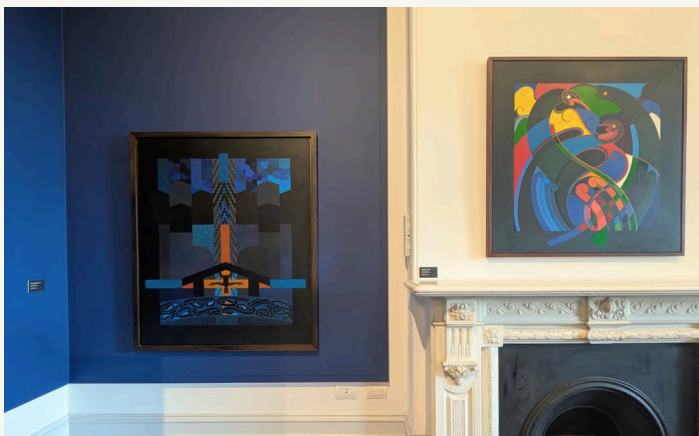
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## Year 11 Art Trip to Pah Homestead

Our Year 11 Art students took their learning outside the classroom on a trip to The Arts House Trust at Pah Homestead to explore Toi Koru by Sandy Adsett.

This exhibition is part of the Auckland Arts Festival 2025 and traces Adsett's influential painting practice from the late 1960s to today.

Students had the opportunity to photograph and draw the beautiful grounds of Monte Cecilia Park.





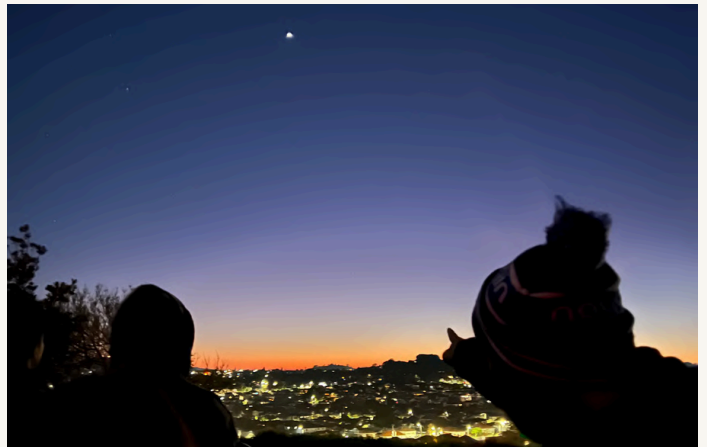
# Matariki Celebrations

"Matariki hunga nui — Matariki of many people."

A time to gather, reflect, and celebrate together

Our 2025 Matariki celebrations began with a Campus event where each of the three kura showcased their amazing mahi. The week was filled with fun games and activities for staff and students—prizes galore and smiles all around!

Kapa haka opened Monday's staff briefing with waiata and Matariki kōrero, followed by a shared parakuihi. Wednesday's 5:45am Dawn Karakia at Puketāpapa saw double last year's turnout, ending with native planting at Te Auaunga. We closed the week with a Kaitahi, where staff shared delicious kai from their cultures.





# Bollywood Showdown

Our MRGS Bollywood Dance Group took part in the Bollywood Showdown 2025 and performed a vibrant dance for a unique Roskill Princesses theme, which was well received by the audience. Our Bollywood crew placed sixth out of 22 schools in Auckland and Hamilton.

We also received the best promotional video cup and cash award of the year, as well as the Best Poster for Our School Theme Cup and Cash Award.

So proud of our MRGS Bollywood Team for their dedication and for representing our school.





# Careers Expo

The annual MRGS Careers Expo was held on Thursday, June 26th. The expo featured a wide range of universities, tertiary providers and industries, from the defence force and police to accounting and careers at Air NZ. Students were provided with an opportunity to ask questions, and our tertiary providers shared information about the wide range of courses the students could study in the future.

The students particularly enjoyed the interactive activities and competitions that were provided. Thanks to Dive HQ for letting the students try on their dive tanks and the NZ Police for allowing the students access to their car and siren. Congratulations to Reggae Akeimo for winning NZSE's press-up competition with 73 press-ups. Khaled Alhantosh was a close second with 67 press-ups.

A massive thank you to all our representatives of the different careers and tertiary providers that came along and to Ms Milo, the student helpers who made the Careers expo possible.





## Consul General of Japan Visit to MRGS

We were delighted to welcome guest speaker Consul General Mr. Matsui on 26 May to speak to the Year 12 and 13 Japanese classes.

Before this talk, we had little idea about the work of a diplomat. Most of us had never even heard the word diplomat before.

When Mr. Matsui and Ms. Kawashima came to speak, we were all fascinated by his explanation of the role and responsibilities of the Consul General. As students, we had many questions, and it was a privilege to hear about Mr. Matsui's career and personal experiences.

Learning about a career that comes with many challenges but also offers rewarding experiences was truly engaging. The presentation resonated with our values, goals, and vision for the future.

Thanks to Mr. Matsui and Ms. Kawashima, we gained valuable insight and are now considering diplomacy as a possible career path.

Thanks also to Miss Kojima for organising their visit. Mr. Matsui's presentation allowed us to understand the work of a diplomat and connect with the ideas in a meaningful way.

*Written by Naailah Riaz*



## Senior Japan Day

On Tuesday, June 10, we were all very excited to go on our long-awaited trip to Auckland University for Senior Japan Day.

Seven secondary schools came together to enjoy fun activities. Throughout the day, we participated in activities such as trying on traditional yukata and kimonos, exploring a haunted house, playing trivia quizzes, and more.



My favourite part of the day was trying on the yukata with my friend Tayyiba. I also really enjoyed the haunted house experience, even though a Lynfield helper scared me so badly that I jumped!

We wrapped up the day with a prize-giving ceremony that included random spot prizes and awards for the trivia quiz competition. Consul General Mr. Matsui gave a short closing speech and kindly gifted all the schools Meiji snacks.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of teachers from all seven schools and the fundraising efforts of the Year 11 Japanese class, who raised a total of \$370.

It was an awesome experience, and I hope to go again next year. Thank you to Ms. Kojima for organising the trip!

*Written by Year 11 student, Zharanya Pulman*

## Senior French Dinner

Bonjour tout le monde! Je m'appelle Melinda.

Le Garde Manger, a beautifully welcoming French restaurant. Everyone enjoyed themselves, even the shuttle there and back was full of chatter and laughter. We learnt more about our peers, teachers, the French culture, and most importantly, “la nourriture” (the food).

There was an array of dishes, such as the entrée: les escargots (snails), goat cheese salad, and the onion soup. The main dishes consisted of the “bœuf bourguignon or coq au vin”, and a vegetarian option. Lastly, for dessert, we either had “mousse au chocolat” or “crème brûlée”.

At the end of the dinner, we were able to participate in some games to win French prizes! I highly recommend that other students going on to senior years take this chance, it's one of the best experiences to have.



Merci, Monsieur McAlpine, Kojima Sensei and Whaea Lee, for constantly making sure everything was at top quality.

Written by Year 12 student, Melinda Singh Orellana

## Year 9 French Breakfast



On 3 June, we had a French Breakfast organised by Mr McAlpine. We had croissants, des pains au chocolat (some chocolate breads), and hot chocolate.

We enjoyed the food and felt like we were sitting in a fancy French café in Paris. We participated in some fun activities and had a prize-giving at the end of the period, which included Eiffel Tower keychains as prizes.

The prize winners were Mustafa, Destynee, Bilal, Mary Nel and Eben. We thank Mr McAlpine for organising this amazing French petit déjeuner.

Written by Year 9 French Students - Niyati Pancholi and Anitta Maria Joseph



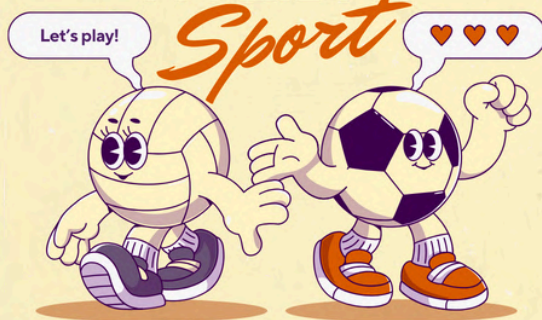


Mount Roskill Grammar School

# SPORT NEWSLETTER



## MRGS SCHOOL HOLIDAY Sport



EMAIL  
[MADISON.POINGDESTRE@MRGS.SCHOOL.NZ](mailto:MADISON.POINGDESTRE@MRGS.SCHOOL.NZ)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER!

BADMINTON!  
FOOTBALL!  
FUTSAL!  
INDOOR CRICKET!  
JUST DANCE!

LAWN BOWLS!  
PICKLEBALL!  
TABLE TENNIS!  
VOLLEYBALL!  
AND MORE!

## School Holiday Sport & Recreation

We are excited to be running a free School Holiday Sport & Recreation Programme for students every day of the Term 2 holidays.

The programme offers a range of social and competitive activities designed to keep students active, engaged and connected over the holidays. No equipment is needed, and all year levels and skill levels are welcome.

If your child is interested in taking part, please email [Maddie Poingdestre](mailto:Maddie.Poingdestre@mrgs.school.nz) to register. We look forward to a fun and active school holiday for our students!

## No games during the holidays

A big thank you to all of our players, coaches, managers and supporters for an enjoyable and successful term of sport.



**Just a reminder: there are no games during the holidays.**

All teams will resume games and training in Week 1, Term 3. Enjoy the break and we'll see you back on the field, court or turf soon!

## Volunteers needed! Coaches, managers & officials!

The MRGS Sports Department is always on the lookout for volunteers to support in coaching, managing and officiating sports 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 - [katie.tahana@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:katie.tahana@mrgs.school.nz)



## Sports Draw & Results

Please ensure you check the draw the day before a game/event as this document is updated regularly with any last-minute venue or time changes.

**MRGS Sports T2 & 3 - Weekly Sports Draw & Results**

## Water Polo Success



Congratulations to **Daniel Mulvaney** for his outstanding performance in the U18 Boys Division 2 Water Polo Final!

Daniel's team, the Atlantis City Water Polo Club, faced off against the Seawolves Club. The boys came out strong with a 3-0 lead in the first quarter and showed incredible determination throughout the game. Heading into the final quarter up 6-3, they held their ground as the Seawolves launched a final push, but Atlantis City held firm, clinching the win 7-6!

As a goalie, Daniel made some amazing saves under pressure, proving to be a key part of the team's success. Awesome work, Daniel — we're proud of you!

## 25th Auckland Girls' Chess Championship 2025

On 16 June, **Juwairiyah Patel** and I participated in the Auckland Girls Regionals Tournament.

This annual tournament marked my fifth time attending, while it was a new experience for Juwairiyah. It was a great day, seeing many girls come together to compete and enjoy chess.

We played to the best of our abilities and had a great time. This was also the first year attending without Mr McDougall, which made the atmosphere feel different and a little sad. However, we hope it would have made him proud to see us continuing the tradition.

Overall, it was a memorable day filled with learning, friendly competition, and kotahitanga. There were 71 participants in the tournament, and I finished 41st overall, and Juwairiyah finished 68th overall. We look forward to seeing even more students take part in the championship next year.



A big thank you to Mrs Burns for giving us this opportunity.

*Written by Year 12 student, Allie O'Callaghan*



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