



Mount Roskill Grammar School

NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING CULTURES

Connecting Communities



Unity in Diversity

Our annual Cultural Week celebrations recognise the richness of cultures within our school community.



From our Principal

Kia ora koutou,

We celebrated Cultural Week in school this week. This is a strong tradition at Mount Roskill Grammar School and celebrates the diversity of our community.

As one of the most diverse schools in New Zealand, we value the culture that each of our students brings to school each day, and this week has been an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of cultures within our school.

We have had performances in assemblies, cultural activities at break times and food stalls from around the world. The week culminated in our cultural dress day today. I want to thank our prefects for taking the lead and organising the week so well.

This term is an important term for all of our students, especially senior students, as they work towards their NCEA qualifications. As well as internal assessments, we have Term 3 Exams starting in Week 8 this term.

This is an opportunity to practice for the external NCEA exams at the end of the year. Students who put the effort into preparing for Term 3 exams generally do well in the externals.

Another important part of the term is the option choices for 2026. All students who are returning in 2026 will need to choose their options this term, and these are important decisions as students start to define pathways through school and beyond.

I encourage you to have conversations at home to ensure that students are making the right choices for their future direction. Details of the option choice process have been emailed out to families and are on page 5 of this newsletter.

Ngā manaakitanga

Tom Webb

Tumuaki | Principal



A Message from the School Board

Kia ora, talofa lava and greetings,

This week at our kura / kolisi / school, we're celebrating Cultural Week! Walking through the grounds, I've been moved by the pride and joy radiating from our ākongā / students – dressed in traditional clothing, sharing kai / mea'ai / food, and performing dances that speak to the richness of their heritage. The colours, sounds, and stories being shared are a powerful reminder of who we are and where we come from.

As a proud Samoan and current Chair of the Board, it fills my heart to see our whānau / aiga / family spirit alive in every corner of MRGS. This is whanaungatanga in action – deep relationships, shared identity, and unity through diversity. Cultural Week is more than a celebration; it's a declaration that every voice, every background, and every story matters here.

But celebration also calls us to leadership. In August, we hold our School Board Elections. This is a powerful moment for parents and caregivers who care deeply about our kura / kolisi to step forward. If you're passionate about education, leadership, and community, I encourage you to nominate yourself.

Serving on the board is an honour – it's a chance to advocate for our tamariki / fanau / children, support our kaiako / faiaoga / teachers, and help guide MRGS toward excellence.

As the Presiding Member (Chair), I've seen first-hand how governance shapes the future of our school. It's about making sure every student has the opportunity to thrive, to be seen, and to be heard. It's about ensuring our values – manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and tūmanakotanga – are lived out in every classroom and every decision.

Even if you're not standing – please vote. Your voice matters. Your vote helps shape the environment your child learns in and the community we all belong to.

Let's continue to build a school where every student is empowered to seek the heights - Sursum.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Ia manuia, blessings.

Leatuao Larry Tupa'i-Lavea
School Board Presiding Member



School Board Elections - Nominations are open!

Get on Board!



Nominations are open for the election of five (5) parent representatives to the School Board. All eligible voters will have received a nomination covering letter and nomination form via email. Use this form to nominate yourself or someone in your community.

Nominations close at **noon on Wednesday 6 August**. You may provide a candidate statement and photograph with your nomination.

Keep an eye out on our MRGS [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for promotional posters and videos.

Voting papers will be posted to all eligible voters by Wednesday 13 August. Voting closes at 4pm on Wednesday 10 September.

If your postal address has changed, please contact the school office to update.

If you have any enquiries, please contact the Returning Officer at returning.officer@mrqs.school.nz

Appointments



We request that, whenever possible, appointments be scheduled outside of school hours.

If your child has an appointment during school time, please let us know in advance by letting our attendance officer know before 9 am so we can arrange for the student to be ready at the time you require.

Please be mindful that sometimes it can take time to get your child from class, so letting us know in advance ensures you can make the appointment on time.

Punctuality

From the start of Week 3, **we are removing the 9.04 am bell**. The 8.55 am bell will still ring, signalling to students that they should make their way to Period 1. Students should be ready for their classes for learning to begin at 9 am.

Punctuality is an important life skill. To support students to be on time to school, we will be sending home a text and email to let you know if your child has been late, or absent from Period 1. Please support your child to be on time for learning.

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

Attendance % for school - **80.1%**

If your child is unable to attend school, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. The fastest way to do this is via the Schoolbridge app. You can also email us - attendance@mrgrs.school.nz. Please ensure you include your child's ID number in email.



[Schoolbridge App Download Instructions](#)

Key dates

Wed 30 th Jul	Course Info Evening Learning Hub, 6-7.30PM
Mon 4 th - Fri 8 th Aug	Peace Week
Mon 4 th Aug	Option selection OPENS for 2026 Y12 & 13s
Wed 6 th Aug - Thurs 7 th Aug	Team Photos
Wed 6 th Aug	Refugee & Migrant Parents Evening Learning Hub, 6-7.30PM
Fri 15 th Aug	Mid-Term Break (School Closed)
Mon 18 th - Fri 22 nd Aug	Tongan Language Week
Mon 25 th - Fri 29 th Aug	Winter Tournament Week
Mon 25 th Aug	Option selection OPENS for 2026 Y10 & 11s
Fri 29 th Aug	Option selection CLOSES for 2026 Y12 & 13s
Mon 1 st Sept - Fri 12 th Sept	Term 3 Subject Exams

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, 30th 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 on SchoolBridge and will receive information about the process in Hui Ako and assemblies at the start of Term 3.

Finance Notice



You can use Schoolbridge as a key way to pay Sport and Trip fees.

Steps to paying any fees through the SchoolBridge App:

1. Open the app and scroll down to the Parent Portal button
2. Click Continue, and it will take you to the Parent Portal
3. Click Menu (three bars on the top left), scroll down and click on 'Financial'
4. Select the fees you wish to pay
5. Click Continue, then Continue to Complete Payment

Alumni News



Isla Mayo (MRGS 2018 Alumna)

An accomplished actress and dancer, Isla has made a fantastic debut for the Auckland Theatre Company in their current production of Romeo and Juliet as Sampson and Dance Captain.

This follows her performances at the Silo Theatre, A Slightly Isolated Dog, Proudly Asian Theatre and for Netflix Japan.

Cultural Week



Year 9 Speech Competition Finals

On Monday 21st July, we held the finals of our Year 9 speech competition; the culmination of weeks of learning and preparation in the Junior English programme. Every Year 9 student scripted and presented a speech to their class, with semi-finals held at the end of last term to determine our finalists.

The finals featured six outstanding students who delivered polished, engaging speeches on a diverse range of topics. Each speaker demonstrated confidence, creativity, and a clear command of language, impressing both the audience and judges.



1st Place: Leyton Wong-Tiatia – *How we can encourage teen parents to be successful.*

2nd Place: Sanay Pai – *Why devoting your life to chasing money will leave you empty, rather than happy.*

3rd Place: Juston Vaimalu – *Why Kids Should Write The Future And Not Politicians*

Thank you to Mr Webb and Ms Fleming (MRIS Deputy Principal) for judging our competition, and to Ms Kelly (Assistant HOD English) for organising the event. Congratulations to all our finalists, and thank you to everyone who supported the event!

Japanese Trivia Quiz Night

こんにちは、私はジェミです。

Hello! My name is Jaime, and I was fortunate enough to represent our school in the annual Inter-school Japanese Quiz Night.

We arrived at Epsom Girls Grammar, wearing Japanese costumes, including Happi coats and Yukatas. The event was a blast! We debated the answers to the questions of five interesting categories, cheering when we got them right and laughing when we got them wrong.

At the end of the night, we left feeling proud, having scored 4th out of the 20 teams.

Huge thanks to my teammates — Martin, Neel, and Ben — for being such great teammates.



Thanks also to our fellow competitors Sarah, Sylvia, Naailah, and Alianza — for doing their best and keeping spirits high.

Naailah, Catherine, and Maia led the quizzes, and Ms Kojima was the main MC for the night. Thank you to Mr. McAlpine for driving the van and to Ms. Kojima for her organisation.

MRGS Ball - Old Hollywood





Mount Roskill Grammar School

SPORT NEWSLETTER



Sports Regional And National Representation

We want to hear about your regional or national sports representation.



We'd love to know! Please email sports.department@mrgs.school.nz with a photo and let us know of any achievements so that we can celebrate your success!



Hockey Players Dominate on National Stage

A huge congratulations to four of our MRGS Hockey Boys who competed at the U18 National Hockey Tournament in Timaru during the holidays.

Finn Orsbourn and Hamish Thomson represented the Auckland Blue team, the defending champions, and helped their team secure another gold medal after an exciting 5-3 win over Otago in the final!

Arthur Roberts and Ankush Kulkarni represented the Auckland White team, who finished 12th overall, narrowly going down to Wairarapa in their final playoff game.

We are incredibly proud of all four athletes for representing Auckland with pride, skill and sportsmanship on the national stage.

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



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

Guard of Honour for Manu Samoa and Scotland Rugby Teams

On the 18th of July, our MRGS 1st XV Rugby Boys and Girls, along with some of our MRGS Sports Leaders, had the privilege of attending the Manu Samoa vs Scotland game held at Eden Park.

Not only did we have the privilege of watching the game, but we were asked to do the Guard of Honour for the players. It was an incredible experience and a memory that all students and staff who went will carry for a long time.

Thank you to Manu Samoa for having us and to all of the MRGS staff who helped to make this happen.

Written by Amaya Phillip, Year 13 Student



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in the school

Refugee & Migrant Parents Evening

This workshop will focus on understanding how students select their options subjects at school and how these link to different study and career pathways. You will also learn about tertiary study, apprenticeships and employment. In the second half of the evening you will be provided with an opportunity to speak to representatives of the University of Auckland, AUT and Unitec to find out more about what they offer and ask any questions you might have. We will have translators available to support you with this.

Refugee & Migrant Parents Evening

Join Us

for more information on

Subject selection ●
Career pathways ●
Tertiary study ●



THE DETAILS

MRGS Learning Hub
Wednesday August 6th
5:45pm to 8pm

*Translators will be available
and food will be provided*

