

February 2022: Term 1, Week 4



From the Principal

Kia ora koutou

Our move to teaching periods 1-4 onsite coincides with a big lift in COVID-19 cases nationwide and the shift to phase 3 of the Omicron response. We are aiming to provide as much onsite time as possible, minimising the disruption to learning, and to families' busy lives. Thank you for all your positive feedback and your suggestions as we work our way through this outbreak.

Standout achievements in the 2021 New Zealand scholarships were the three scholarships gained by year 12 student Grace Xu, the seven scholarships including three at outstanding in English and the two scholarships in Samoan gained by Jeremiah Masani and Mercy Tuifao. With only ten scholarships awarded in Samoan nationwide, this is an outstanding achievement for our Teacher in charge Margaret Va'aelua.

We will be presenting awards to students who gained an NCEA excellence endorsement during a school day in March.

Today we farewell our front of school receptionist Jules Keery. She has been such a welcoming presence for our community and students, giving information and helping each person that comes along. Jules exemplifies our MRGS value of whanaungatanga. We wish her all the best in her next role.



Nga manaakitanga
Greg Watson
Principal

School Board

I would like to thank our kaiako and taura for their ongoing commitment to learning in challenging times. It is reassuring to hear that our students are taking mask wearing seriously.

I would like to congratulate our scholarship winners. To reach those heights is exceptional. For each taura who attained a scholarship we also acknowledge the kaiako and families who have supported each taura's learning journey over the years prior to the scholarship examination.



Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board

Timetable Change

As you will be aware from the letter sent earlier this week this is a reminder of the times of day and how your child can be supervised until 3.00pm on site if they are unable to go home at 1.30pm.

Times of the day

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday First bell 8.55am		Wednesday First bell 9.15am	
Period 1	9.00-9.55am	Period 1	9.20-10.15am
Period 2	9.55-10.50am	Period 2	10.15-11.10am
Hui ako	10.50-11.15am	Break	11.10-11.40am
Break	11.15-11.45am	Period 3	11.40-12.35pm
Period 3	11.45-12.40pm	Period 4	12.35-1.30pm
Period 4	12.40-1.35pm		

Supervision

<https://forms.gle/3ab9icv9HvFerEra7>

Scholarship Results

Last week the New Zealand Scholarship results were released and we are pleased to announce that 30 Scholarships were awarded to our hard working senior students for 2021.

Outstanding Scholarships went to **Abhishek Ravichandran** (Drama), **Karen Wang** (English), **Lydias Yong** (English) and **Grace Xu** (English).

A special mention to **Grace Xu** who gained scholarships in 3 subjects (Calculus, Chemistry and English) as a Year 12 student.

Student	Subject	Scholarship Outcome	Student	Subject	Scholarship Outcome
Aastha Potnis	Accounting	Scholarship	Lydias Yong	English	Outstanding Scholarship
Pauline Zhou	Accounting	Scholarship	Grace Xu	English	Outstanding Scholarship
Deep Vora	Accounting	Scholarship	Sonam Bagwe	English	Scholarship
Josie Noller	Biology	Scholarship	Hannah Armstrong	English	Scholarship
Jack Heeps	Biology	Scholarship	Sylvia McDougall	English	Scholarship
Anannyashree Parthasarthy	Biology	Scholarship	Theodore Dodd	English	Scholarship
Rabiya Rafi	Biology	Scholarship	Chris Lobo	Physics	Scholarship
Coco Chen	Biology	Scholarship	Coco Chen	Physics	Scholarship
Grace Xu	Calculus	Scholarship	Jeremiah Masani	Samoan	Scholarship
Karen Wang	Chemistry	Scholarship	Mercy Tuifao	Samoan	Scholarship
Grace Xu	Chemistry	Scholarship	Methulan Mohanathas	Statistics	Scholarship
Hannah Armstrong	Classical Studies	Scholarship	Rabiya Rafi	Statistics	Scholarship
Sonam Bagwe	Dance	Scholarship	Timothy Sly	Technology	Scholarship
Abhishek Ravichandran	Drama	Outstanding Scholarship	Daniel Ferguson	Technology	Scholarship
Karen Wang	English	Outstanding Scholarship	Denver Yuan	Technology	Scholarship

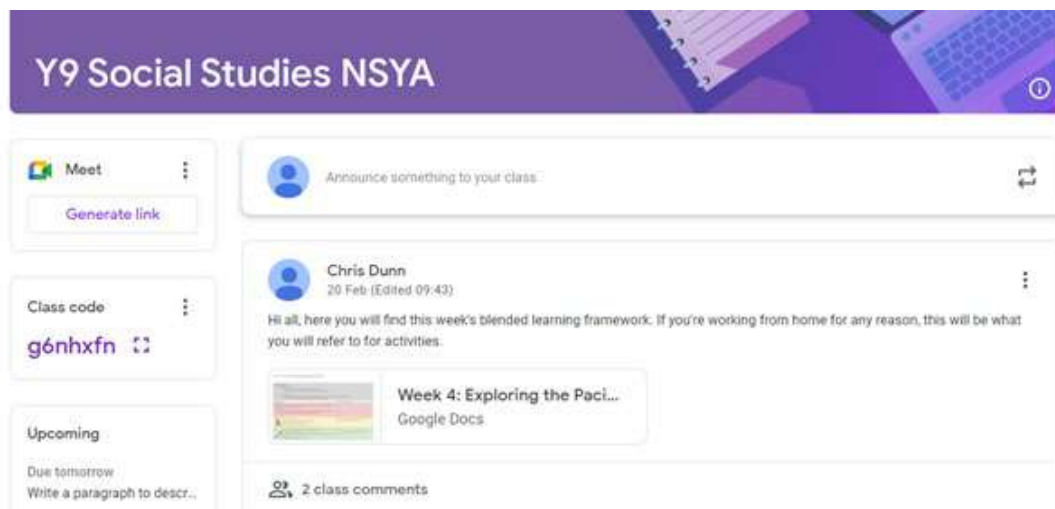
Online Learning

Important: If your student does not yet have a device to use, then we can arrange to lend them one. [Please see our website](#) for a copy of the loan agreement.

This term our students may need to work from home for various reasons so that our students can receive the best education possible under the circumstances. There are three threads to our online learning approach at MRGS: Google Classroom and the Blended Learning Framework.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is where our online learning takes place. All our teachers have made classrooms available for all our students in all classes. On their Google Classroom page, they will find the class work that is being taught in-class on a daily basis. If you would like access to a Google Classroom to see what your student should be doing, then please email the teacher directly and they can give you access.



Blended Learning Framework

Every Google Classroom has a copy of that class's Blended Learning Framework. This is a document that reminds students about prior learning, instructs students on current learning, provides opportunities to practice their work, and encourages them to review their learning to embed it as new knowledge.

Students should refer to the Blended Learning Framework to make sure they understand what they are meant to be learning and how it relates to their prior learning and next steps. It is not meant as an exhaustive step-by-step lesson plan, but rather as an indicator of what is being learned.

Learning intention:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAT am I learning ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where Māori and Pacific Islanders ancestors came from - How these ancestors navigated the Pacific Ocean and settled in Aotearoa • WHY am I learning this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies the techniques and hardships Island voyagers had to use and overcome in exploring the Pacific - Introduces ideas around why people migrate and challenges they face 		
Learning tasks	Links to learning tasks	
Remember  Check in on the Google Classroom for announcements and any Google Meets if you are still working from home. Please make sure you have access to TVNZ ON DEMAND as we are going to watch an episode of the show Origins with Scotty Morrison.	 Introduction to Ancient Pacific Migration	
Learn  Topic overview Key vocabulary - Migration, culture, environment Where Maori and Pacific Islanders came from How they navigated the Pacific Ocean What challenges they needed to overcome when voyaging	See Google Classroom under classwork for the slides you will need for this week	

<p>Do</p> 	<p>Find out the Difference between Near and Remote Oceania Cartoon on ocean exploration Complete TWO questions around Scotty Morrisons journey to discover where Hawaiki is Record different navigation techniques</p>	<p>See the slides for details on these activities</p>
<p>Review</p>	<p>You will know you are successful if...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can explain the terms migration, culture, environment You understand where the ancestors of Pacific Islanders and Maori came 	<p>Submit your work through Classroom</p>

If you have any questions about our online learning approach, please do not hesitate to contact Mr C Dunn – chris.dunn@mrgs.school.nz

Health & Safety

COVID-19 related absences

Please notify the school immediately if your child has a **positive COVID-19 test result** or is notified as a **household contact** and has been advised to self-isolate.

When you contact the school please include:

- Your child’s full name and Hui Ako class
- The reason for their COVID-19-related absence
- The start and end date of their isolation

Attendance contact is via attendance@mrgs.school.nz or Phone: +64 9 621 0069

Unless your child is positive or a household contact they can come to school.

If you need to pick up your child urgently for COVID-19 related reasons please ring the phone number on the board in the foyer. The DP on duty will arrange to bring your child to the Dean’s gate for you to collect them.

Please make sure your child brings a mask to school every day and talk through the proper way to wear a mask. A mask should cover their nose, mouth and chin without gaps above, below or on the sides.

Masks are a proven way to stop the transmission of COVID-19 and our government has made it a requirement that everyone must wear one while indoors at school.

Masks for sale in Accounts:

Top mask \$10.00 each with adjustable straps and room for a filter
 Logo and non-Logo (bottom two) \$4.00 each



Mentoring

One of the ways that we aim to achieve our School-wide goals of raising achievement through targeted actions and creating powerful partnerships for learning is through our mentoring programme. Every one of our senior students is mentored by a staff member who works with them over three years.

We find that the most powerful partnerships for learning involve whānau, and usually we would hold a Term 1 mentoring conference that involves mentors, mentees, and their families. Due to the public health restrictions, we have set up a system that will still ensure goals are set and families are communicated with, but that keeps all of us safe.

On **Wednesday March 9th** we will be holding a series of mentoring conferences. The school day will only be three periods long with a 12.35pm finish for junior students. Our seniors will then be invited to join a fifteen-minute conference with their mentor either face-to-face at school, or online via google meets. During this meeting they will set an academic goal for the year which will be shared with home via a Google Doc. Whānau who are able to join the meeting alongside their child are encouraged to do so as this will help with goal setting.

More detail on how these conferences are booked will be made available next week.

New Parents Evening

We acknowledge that some parents were unable to access or attend the live event for new students. The Principal, Senior Leaders and Lisa Kingi-Bon from the School Board have recorded the key messages from our new parents evening, which you can access via this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFbOmizn9jo>

Polyfest

We place huge value in Polyfest and the opportunity it provides for students to celebrate their culture. We have made the difficult decision this year to withdraw from participating in Polyfest. We felt we needed to prioritise safety with the ongoing rise in Omicron.

We are committed to creating opportunities in the coming Terms for our Cultural Groups to perform and be celebrated.

Calendar Dates

Term 1	
Wed 9 Mar	Mentoring Conference 1 (Y11-13)
Thurs 17 Mar	Class Photos
Fri 18 Mar	School Holiday - Closed
Mon 21 - Fri 25 Mar	Year 13 Camp
Thurs 7 Apr	Mahurangi Sports Exchange @ MRGS (TBC)
Tue 12 Apr	Pukekohe Sports Exchange @ Pukekohe (TBC)
Thurs 14 Apr	END OF TERM 1

Guidance Counselling Department

A warm welcome to those of you who are new to our school community from the counselling team!

We are delighted to meet with your Year 9 rangatahi twice this term.

In the first week, we ran a **Whākamarie** workshop for all new students. This workshop is to support our Year 9's in developing healthy ways of managing stress and anxiety. The methods taught are based on the latest neuroscience, and on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy: catching "snake" (negative) thoughts, and changing them into "ladder" (positive) thought.

Later this term, we will run a **Manaakitanga** workshop.

This workshop explains how the counselling service works, and teaches how students can self-refer or refer a friend they may be concerned about.

We have five counsellors in our team. All counselling is confidential, unless there is an imminent risk to safety. Teachers do not have access to counselling information.

We also discuss the Roskill culture of respect, and supporting and maintaining the mana of all students and staff. When harassment, exclusion or bullying are identified, we address it, and we restore the harm. The person who has been harmed is given a priority voice in deciding how the matter is dealt with. Emotional safety is a priority at Roskill. Inclusion and connectedness are pre-conditions for wellbeing and learning.

As Counsellors we use an appointment system to make sure we can give uninterrupted quality time to each student we work with. We welcome whānau referrals. Please email us on counsellors@mrgs.school.nz. Students also can Direct Message us on instagram (counsellingmrgs) or on Messenger (mrgscounselling), or they can drop in before or after school to book a time.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Margaret Hoogendoorn
HOD Counselling

Sports Update

College Sport Mandate Vaccination for all School Sport

This a reminder that all students who wish to take part in College Sport Auckland Competitions this year must be fully vaccinated before they are able to play. This extends to all Coaches, Managers, Officials and parent helpers who are associated with teams. Please ensure you have provided proof of your child's vaccination to the school to ensure they are able to attend their sports matches. You can submit your child's vaccination proof through the following link: <https://forms.gle/pJib7X7uPshMk9Lq6>

Any parents who are interested and able to coach, manage and volunteer to support their child's teams, you can complete your proof of vaccination for through the following link: <https://forms.gle/ak6qXuwtd5piHzh7>

Spectators at Sport

This is a reminder that there are to be no spectators at any Mount Roskill Grammar School sporting fixtures while we are under the RED level setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework.

Premier Netball Coach Vacancy

Mount Roskill Grammar is seeking to appoint a new Premier Netball Coach to lead our Senior Team in the Premier Netball Waitakere competition. The ideal coach will have experience coaching Netball, great interpersonal and communication skills, and have a passion for the game. It is essential that you are available

on Tuesdays (late afternoon/evening) for games and to take 2x training sessions each week. This is a paid position and one that we are looking to fill as soon as possible.

Please send any expressions of interest and requests for more information to the Director of Sport; cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz by Friday 11th March.

Open Water Swimming

On Saturday **12 February** eight members of our swim team braved very challenging weather and sea conditions at Mission Bay to represent the school in the Harlequins Zonal (Northland, Auckland & Counties region) Secondary Schools Open Water Swimming Championships, retaining our title from last year. Despite the rough conditions the swimmers achieved some outstanding results in their age categories:

3.2km Event

Emma Winn	1st	12-13 year old females
Nemanja Markovic	1st	12-13 year old males
Alex Winn	2nd	14-15 year old females
Daniel Kregting	2nd	14-15 year old males with a very impressive time of 49 minutes
Astrid Kyle	5th	16+ females

600m Event

Saniru Hewa	2nd	16+ males
Jinitha Hewa	4th	14-15 year old males
Finn Orsbourn	5th	14-15 year old males



Congratulations to these students and to Ms C Good for her ongoing support of our swimming programme.

Swimming Sports 2022

On Tuesday 15th February the school swimming sports took place at the school pool. In perfect conditions some great battles took place and the values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga were clearly evident.

The Senior Boys competition saw brothers **Saniru** and **Jinitha Hewa** battling it out for top honours with Saniru claiming bragging rights over his younger brother. Roskill Swim Club team mates **Ethan Stocks** and **Daniel Kregting** dominated the Intermediate Boys section with Ethan first overall and Daniel runner up. **Nemanja Markovic** made a clean sweep in the Junior Boys events, following up his impressive first placing in the 13 Year Old Boys Regional Secondary Schools Open Water 3.2km swim on the Saturday before. **Austin Wrack** was runner up.

The Senior Girls was also closely contested between **Alex Winn** and **Astrid Kyle**, with the placings see-sawing between events and eventually the results being tied. Committing to the hectic schedule of racing all five events paid off for Rangiatea Waipara giving her the Intermediate Girls title, with **Farah Ikram** runner up. **Emma Winn** took the Junior Girls title, also following up on her first placing in the 13 Year Old Girls Regional Secondary Schools Open Water 3.2km swim on the Saturday before. **Megan Marinich** was runner up.

Swimmers from the MacLean Centre showed some great determination in the Super Sprint events and some fabulous victory celebrations on successfully completing the challenge.

The House Relay concluded the events, with Hillary remaining unbeaten for the third year in a row. Sheppard and Rutherford fought out a close battle for second and third respectively. Despite the Prefects doing an awesome job helping to run the event they were unable to place in the relay. Well done to all those who participated.



Cricket

There has been a mixture of results to the start of season across all of Cricket teams in the first two weeks. Some of the highlighted results are below:

Junior A T20

85/1 beat Rosmini 83/8 - Finn Orsbourn 21 runs

1st XI Boys 102/3 beat Pakuranga 101/10 - Rahman Hekmat 4 wickets, Dev Ratra 57 runs

Junior Colts

264/7 beat Selwyn 135/10 - Abhi Patel 84 runs, Sourav Dhungel 64 runs, Pratyush Khatiwada 3 wickets

Junior Colts

176/2 beat St Peter's 175/9 - Pratyush Khatiwada 4 wickets, Abhi Patel 56 not out, Saad Khan 51 not out



Vacancy

Accounts Administrator

We are looking for a new team member for our school accounts office at Mount Roskill Grammar School in central Auckland.

Your role is a key member of the Finance team and the daily and monthly processing of information.

The primary responsibilities include:

- Processing Accounts payable and receivable
- Providing advice and information to the HOD on processes and their budgets
- Assistance with payroll processing
- Reconciliation of accounts and month end processes
- Processing payments from students

This is a busy office within a large school. We've recently upgraded to Xero, Approval max and Hubdoc so have all systems in place, and we need a hand to do this.

Key skills:

- Previous experience in an account's role is essential
- Must have Xero experience, Hubdoc and Approval max a bonus
- Excel and Google docs experience is essential
- KAMAR experience is also an advantage
- Willingness to learn different systems and take on new challenges
- Good at problem solving and have an eye for detail
- Happy to lend a hand as needed

We are seeking someone who is organised and efficient and can work with our new systems. Your experience in an education environment will be highly regarded but is not essential.

This role will be Monday – Friday 37.5 hours per week, School term time only.

Applications close Friday 6pm, 5 March 2022.
Please apply to Karyn.Gaudin@mrgs.school.nz