

February 2023: Term 1, Week 1



## From the Principal

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

Welcome to 2023 at Mt Roskill Grammar School!

It has been a pleasure meeting families new to the school and helping our year 9 students get started. They have participated with enthusiasm in the induction programme which, following the pōwhiri, included sessions on the Roskill Way, school values, mindfulness, sport, tikanga, and setting up internet access. Thank you to all senior students for their leadership and support of the Year 9 programme.

We hope that your family is safe and dry following the flooding at the end of January. We are here to help students who may be in challenging circumstances as a result. Please contact Associate Principal Mrs Gaitau as needed. Our main school buildings sustained little damage; however buildings close to Te Auaunga (Oakley Creek), including our Early Childhood Centre have been seriously impacted.

It has been great to welcome back returning students and congratulate them on their excellent achievement in the NCEA examinations. Especial congratulations to our 2022 dux Grace Xu who achieved scholarships in eight subjects, placing her amongst the very best scholars in the country.

Following a leadership camp held in late January, our prefects are displaying pride and teamwork day by day. Congratulations to head prefects Tom Watkinson, Joshlyn Iyekepolo, Riki Sagato and Sofia Familara on their appointment. This year we welcome three new members of the Senior Leadership Team. Deputy Principals Danielle Pringle, Haizley Reweti, and Rees Skiff bring outstanding leadership capability and experience to our school. They are all enjoying meeting students and families as part of their new roles.

We are always available to help families with any questions, and to ensure each student enjoys their learning. We are looking forward to meeting families of new students at our 'Welcome to Roskill' evening on February 16. We hope to see many of you at the various upcoming events.

Ngā manaakitanga



Greg Watson  
Tumuaki | Principal

## School Board

Kia ora koutou

It is exciting to start a new year and to welcome our new taura and kaiako to our MRGS whānau.

I would like to acknowledge the hardship for many in our community with the recent weather events and offer my thanks to those who have supported them.

Our kura is one of the best in the country and every taura has the opportunity to learn something new every day. I recommend our taura be open to joining a co-curricular activity to help them create additional connections.

I look forward to a settled year of learning for you all.

Ngā mihi mahana



Marjet Pot  
Presiding Member  
**School Board**

## Pou Āwhina role

At the end of 2022 we were excited to appoint Monique Fisher to our newly created Pou Āwhina role. In this role, Monique will be teaching our year 9 Tikanga Māori module and will provide staff with practical curriculum support.

“Kia Ora e te whanau ko Monique Fisher tōku ingoa. No Ngati Whātua o Kaipara ahau. Ko taku mahi i roto i tēnei kura, ko te Pou Āwhina ahau. My mahi is predominantly to awhi and help create a new Tikanga Module for our year 9 akonga. I am a kaiako as well as a leader to manaaki our kura and staff with their haerenga re kaupapa Māori.”



## Calendar

14 & 15 Feb	ID/Portrait Photos
16 Feb	New Students Whānau Evening
23 Feb	NCEA Awards Evening
8 – 10 March	Polyfest
13 March	School Holiday – No students onsite
20 – 24 March	Year 13 Camp
30 March	Sports Exchange
1 April	70 <sup>th</sup> Reunion
4 April	Junior Report Evening
6 April	End of Term 1

## Pōwhiri



## Prefects

We are thrilled to have our 2023 prefects continue to lead the way. Congratulations to the following students:

Ruby Ahlquist	Dinahlee Faleafa	Roma Mauinatu	Melanie Sands
Poiva Ainuu	Sofia Familara	Travis Noa	Aarushi Sehajpal
Opera Aleki	April Hartmann	Zahlia Prasad	Nihaal Singh
Ryan Aramoana	Junior Iosia	Thus Radhakrishnan	Ishaan Sonar
Muhammad Berakdar	Fateema Islam	Akul Thatipamula	Jireh Stitt
Rhea Bhonsle	Joshlyn Iyekepolo	Ngawaka Rakete	Kalarnee Stunzner
Tessa Bolland	Bushra Kassem	George Russell	Noma Talakiaatu
Nathan Carpendale	Finn Lavery	Riki Sagato	Latu Tavake
Coco Chen	Lily Mao	Tom Watkinson	Ade Tesfaw
Caitlin Doolan	Matilda Fa'atea	Alex Thomson	Shreya Walthati
Aya El Gana			



## Attendance

We know the best place for students to learn is here with us at school. Alongside the Ministry of Education expectation, we also aspire to students being with us 90% or more of the time. Please support your child to be here every day. Every minute of learning counts.

You will receive a fortnightly update of your child's attendance via email, please discuss this with your child so they are aware of their attendance levels regularly.

### Start of the Day:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** classes start at 9am with a 8.55am Bell to signal 5 minutes to the start of the lesson

**Wednesday** classes start at 9.20am with a 9.15am Bell to signal 5 minutes to the start of the lesson



## New Students' Whānau Evening

### New Students' Whanāu Evening Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> in the School Hall

This meeting will be an opportunity for students and families new to our school to find out about our organisation, our values and the learning opportunities which exist within the school.

The Senior Leadership Team, Deans and Kaiako will be available to meet with you and answer any questions.

Details of the evening:

**6.00 – 6.30pm** - tea and coffee served and an opportunity to meet with House Deans and Kaiako.

**6.30pm** - Mr Greg Watson, Principal, will lead an introduction to the school.

The Principal's presentation will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

We all look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our school.

## NCEA Excellence Awards

The NCEA Excellence Awards will be held on Thursday 23rd February, in the Butler Hall starting at 6.30pm. This event celebrates NCEA Achievement from 2022. Students and their families will receive invitations to this event via email. We look forward to celebrating our students who demonstrate Tūmanakotanga with you.

## Jubilee

MRGS 70th Reunion [1953-2023]

Saturday April 1 2023

A range of ways to connect starting at 10am.

We look forward to seeing you as you reconnect with your place, your friends, and your memories. Please share this information with any alumni who might not see this post.

Registration and ticketing information below for those wanting to attend. Please complete the registration form if you are attending any of the events. All events on the day will be at MRGS.

1. Please follow the link <https://forms.gle/wRyADC54uSvZiuzcA> to complete the registration form by Tuesday 14 February 2023.

2. If you would like to attend the lunch you need to purchase tickets by following the separate link at the bottom of the registration form as these are being processed by an external company.

We will have professional photographers on site and will share any photos taken.

Any queries to [alumni@mrqs.school.nz](mailto:alumni@mrqs.school.nz)

See you there/here!



## Photos

ID portrait photos are being taken next week on Tuesday February 14 and 15. Boys clean shaven. Tidy correct uniform.

## Phone use in Lessons

We are working hard to build and maintain the most effective learning environments for our students. It has been identified both at MRGS and internationally in schools that phones are creating a lot of distraction from engagement and learning, and therefore hindering progress.

We will be sharing with students in School Assembly next week, and have asked teachers to reinforce our school policy that phones are not to be used in class unless directed by the teacher. Students will be asked to have their phones away in their bags, on silent during lessons. Please support us by discussing this at home with your child and reinforcing a focus on learning.

## Chromebooks

MRGS is an established BYOD school, meaning that your child needs to have a device to support their learning in the classroom. The ideal device for learning is lightweight with a keyboard. MRGS' teachers use the Google Classroom platform for all their classes as a way of distributing information, assigning classwork and homework tasks, and giving feedback on assessments.

Through our ICT partners New Era, we give our community access to a purchasing portal called Acquire <https://newera-byod.acquire.co.nz/>. New Era seeks to provide our community with the most competitive pricing for any new device purchases, but if you are struggling to provide a device for learning and you have a community services card, we do have a limited number of Chromebooks available for loan for the 2023 academic year. To access these devices, a \$50 deposit will need to be paid; you or your child will need to present a community services card at the time that you or they make the deposit

## Students Driving to School

Students who are driving to school are reminded of the following expectations:

- There is no parking on campus grounds which includes the Intermediate and Primary schools
- Vehicles are not to be used during school hours (unless permission from a member of SLT)
- Students are not permitted to transport other students unless on a full NZ Drivers Licence
- Students are to drive safely around school, with particular consideration of the younger members of our campus

We will be sending students a google form to register to drive their cars to school. Please complete this as soon as possible

## Flood Support

If you require support following the floods please use the following links:

Follow The Ark Collective Facebook page- <https://www.facebook.com/thearkcollective>

Auckland Emergency Management- <https://www.aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz/>

## Property

At the start of week 2, we opened our staffroom to staff for the first time in over a year. It has been great to have staff back together in a weather-tight and refreshed space. In March we look forward to the completion of our Learning Hub and Year 13 Common room. Although not quite finished, both spaces are looking fantastic and we can't wait to welcome students, staff and whānau into them later in the term.



## Sports

### Summer and Winter Sports Registrations

On Wednesday 15th February the Sports Department will be taking registrations for all summer and Winter Sports during the lunch break. This will take place in Gym 3 and will continue on Thursday and Friday during the lunch breaks as well. Please remind your students to attend and put their names down for all of the sports they are wanting to play. Once registrations are completed, the Sports Department will email students and parents with information about first practices and trials for teams.

### Sports Coaches Needed!

We are seeking coaches for a wide variety of sports here at Mount Roskill in 2023 and need some support from our community so our students can continue to develop and enjoy their sport. If you are able to commit to coaching any of the following sports please get in touch with Director of Sport ([cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz)):

#### Summer:

Archery  
Athletics  
Cricket  
Lacrosse  
Lawn Bowls  
Softball  
Tag Football  
Touch  
Tennis  
Volleyball  
Waka Ama  
Water Polo

#### Winter:

Badminton  
Basketball  
Distance  
Running  
Football  
Hockey  
Lacrosse  
Netball  
Rugby Union  
Table Tennis



Follow us on Instagram: [mrgs.sport](https://www.instagram.com/mrgs.sport)

The Sports Department has their very own dedicated sports page on Instagram to share all things sport. You will find information about registrations, practices, games, social activities and student success stories posted weekly. Make sure you follow us @mrgs.sport to keep up to date with all things Sport at Mount Roskill Grammar School.

### Sports Department Office Hours:

Students can come to the Sports Office which is location in the Gym 2 & 3 Foyer during break times and after school with any Sport and Recreation questions they have. The team can also be reached at [sports.department@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:sports.department@mrgs.school.nz)

## Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award

Mount Roskill Grammar School is taking expressions of interest from students who might be interested in completing the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award. The award is made up of four different sections; Voluntary Service, Physical Recreation, Skills and Adventurous Journey. Throughout the award you will be supported by staff at the school and other community leaders. If you are interested and would like to know more information, please speak with Ms Winterton in the P.E. office today! You can also email [marie.winterton@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:marie.winterton@mrgs.school.nz)

## Alumni News

Leslie Boulton (1960)

When Les left MRGS, having studied with us 1956 – 1960 he attended University of Auckland attaining an MSC (Hons).

He was a teaching fellow at Monash University, lectured in Melbourne and taught at MRGS.

Les has published almost 80 research papers, been involved in commercial investigations and is a member or fellow of a range of international associations. His research and consultancy business focused on metal corrosion.

He attributes his love of science and chosen career path to his Chemistry and Physics teachers at MRGS.



## Reliever positions

Mount Roskill Grammar School is a place for successful, powerful learners and active, responsible citizens. Our motto is "Sursum" (To the Heights). We help each student reach their own heights, whilst nurturing a love of learning and a sense of belonging in our community.

We are looking for qualified and registered teachers to join us as day relievers who have:

- A passion for teaching, inspiration, enthusiasm
- Honest and open communication
- Flexibility and adaptability
- The ability to treat everyone fairly and respectfully
- An openness to new learning

How to Apply:

Please send your CV, and direct enquiries to:

Aileen Chen, Relief Manager

[relief@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:relief@mrgs.school.nz)