

September 2022: Term 3, Week 8



From the Principal

Kia ora koutou

We are looking forward to the formal blessing of our whāre Te Puawaitanga o te Mātūranga next week. The whāre and its carvings have been renovated and enhanced by Matua Harry Wikaira. We are grateful for the guidance and support from Ngati Whatua Orakei as we prepare for this special occasion.

Last week a hugely appreciative audience enjoyed the campus fiafia night in which students from the three schools performed with pride and joy. Well done to all the students involved, and many thanks to school staff and community leaders who enabled the event to run so smoothly.

Congratulations to all the teams who represented the school so well during tournament week. The girls' 1st XI hockey and the boys' 1st XI football teams reached the final of their tournaments, an outstanding achievement. Well done to our curling teams who gained top placings in their competitions. Our junior debaters compete in the Auckland final of their competition during the week.

Senior exams beginning this week provide senior students with an opportunity to get accurate feedback about how they are positioned for the NCEA externals which they will sit in November. The exams will take place during lesson time and exam leave has been reduced so that students can continue to learn with their teachers throughout the exam period.

Ngā manaakitanga



Greg Watson
Tumuaki | Principal

School Board

Kia ora koutou

I was delighted to see our tauira performing at the Fiafia night last week. It is a privilege to be part of a campus that can share in events like this and wonderful to see so many whānau present to watch our tauira shine. I look forward to our Maori graduation campus event early next term!

As a large kura we are able to provide a range of co-curricular opportunities but they cannot run without Kaiako support outside of the classroom. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kaiako involved in the Fiafia night, and those involved in Tournament week and the other co-curricular events that are ongoing throughout the year.



Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board

Calendar Dates

Mon 12 – Fri 16 Sept	Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori
Wed 21 Sept	School Board Voting closes 4pm
Mon 12 – Tues 27 Sept	Senior External Practice Assessments (in class)
Thurs 29 Sept	Sports Awards
Fri 16 Sept	School Holiday, school closed
Monday 26 Sept	Queen's Memorial Holiday
Fri 30 Sept	End of Term 3

Senior Practice Exams

Senior Practice Exams start in week 8 on Monday September 12 and run through to Wednesday September 28. All students have been sent through a schedule of when their assessments are on. See the link below. We hold all assessments during class time and run the timetable as normal to maximise teaching time for all subjects. We have scheduled some study days where only senior students who take practical subjects will be on site for workshops. All other senior students can use this time for revision.

We are also using these days to run our NCEA pilot Literacy and Numeracy exams for Year 10 students. Some students sat these earlier in the year and provided they passed those assessments they will not be sitting the assessments again. Information on the Year 10 Literacy and Numeracy Pilot assessments will be emailed to families of Year 10 students.

Please support your students during these assessments by helping them plan ahead to be at school in plenty of time for the start of the day, encouraging them to have breakfast and get a good night's sleep.

[Key dates and Information - Term 3 Senior Practice Exams](#)

[Term 3 Practice External Schedules - FINAL](#)

Campus Fiafia Night



Enrolments for 2023 now open

In Zone Mt Roskill Grammar School enrolments for 2023 are open!

Applications can be submitted online through the link below or hard copy forms can be handed in at Reception in the MRGS Administration Building.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or come and see us. For options creation and staffing we encourage you to get these to us by October 7.

IN ZONE: <https://www.mrgs.school.nz/in-zone>



We look forward to welcoming your child to our Mt Roskill Grammar School whānau in 2023.

Mentoring

Our final mentoring conferences for the year are coming up in the first week of Term 4 on Wednesday October 19. This will be a chance for our senior students to gain a clear understanding of what they require from the NCEA exams starting in November.

Those students who look as though they have a secure pass for the year will be able to leave at the end of Week 3 (November 4th). Those who are still working towards achievement of NCEA internal standards will be invited back in Weeks 4 and 5 to attend pathways sessions with their teachers in order to ensure that they maximise their chances to gain their NCEA qualification.

School Board Elections

Reminder voting for parents and caregivers closes at **4pm Wednesday 21 September**.

Please ensure your voting papers are returned to the office by this deadline



Performing Arts

The Drama Showcase was held in Week 4 and had a large range of senior Drama performances. Act 1 was a mix of short scenes from year's 11-13 Drama classes which focused on more challenging and emotional themes and ideas, such as a brave piece about Islamophobia, some work around motherhood and pregnancy, and pieces that explore conflict between family and friends. The second Act was our Year 12 mini production 'The Ball' which was a devised comedy piece exploring the insanity and joy of Ball Season in high schools. As this was the first Drama showcase in many years, our students were so proud and excited to share their work with the community. The cast and crew had a great time performing for their whānau and friends and we want to thank our lovely audience for their wonderful feedback.



Performing Arts

No.3 Roskill Theatre Company is a company of young creatives working to tell the stories of Mt Roskill to the Puketāpapa Community. Some of the No.3 Creatives (ex MRGS students Lijah Mavaega, Nimeti Akatere, Jonjon Cowley-Lupo and Netane Taukiueva) have reached out to MRGS to work with our students for their new show *Welcome Home*. Our junior MRGS creatives had our first rehearsal on Friday, where we started learning how to devise, played games and warm up exercises, and developed content for the performance. The group will be rehearsing all term and will perform in Term 4. We look forward to letting you know more about our process going forward.



Youth Peace Symposium: “The Power of Unity”

After our MRGS Peace Week, 28 Mediators attended the fabulous Peace Symposium, alongside seven other schools and Peace Leaders. This fun day was full of engaging, interventional Peace activities, as well as hearing from the inspirational Chloe Swarbrick, Auckland Central Member of Parliament; and Peace advocate Kodrean Eashae, Founder of Voice of Aroha.

When Chloe was speaking about politics, she told the story of the fish swimming up the river, and the dog on the riverside asking “How’s the water?” The fish answered: “What water?”

She made it clear that politics is everywhere, we are all swimming in politics. We need to be aware and make decisions for ourselves otherwise others will make our decisions for us. She said be involved in your community and believe you can make a difference even if you’re young. In fact being young is an asset. She also said that often what we find inspirational in others is what we ourselves are aspiring to.

Our Mediators Riley, Damien, Aiysha, Mika, Neron, Ketula, Losa, Shadrach, Fatima, Earl, Lujain, Megan, Nicole, Khadija, Alla, Nanditha, Hargun, Redeyet, Mudita, Jessica, Ravneet, Asil, Julius, Tui, Arya, Sumayyah, Tisha and Aanisha all did a great peace presentation making MRGS proud once again.

A big thank you to the Peace Foundation who made this possible!

E hara taku toa

i te toa takitahi,

he toa takitini

My strength is not as an individual,

But as a collective.



Sports Update

Term 4 Summer Sports Registrations:

With the winter sports seasons coming to close over the next couple of weeks, we now look to Term 4 Summer Sports which is fast approaching. This week, students will be able to start registering for summer sports like Cricket, Volleyball, Touch, Softball, and Waterpolo. Students have been sent a Google Form to their school email address where they can register for the Summer Sports they would like to participate in. Please keep an eye on the notices and Sports Instagram page for more details.

Sports Update

Winter Sports Fees and Sports Uniform Returns

A reminder to students and families that Sports fees from Term 1 Summer Sports and all Winter Sports are now overdue. Please make these payments as soon as possible to the accounts office. **All Winter Sports Uniforms** must now be returned to your team coach/manager or directly to the Sports Department Office. This includes all school playing uniforms, warm-up tops and Tracksuits. Please return these by the end of this week.

Lunchtime and After School Sports Activities

The sports department is running a number of social sporting activities during lunch times and after school for all of our students. These range from opening up the fitness centre, playing games such as handball, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and more. Please follow the MRGS Sport instagram page (@mr.gs.sport) where posts are made daily on what activities are happening each day for students. If you have any questions, please see Renee in the Sports Department.

Winter Tournament Week 2022

After two years of cancelled Winter Tournament Weeks we had over 80 excited students competing in the NZ Secondary Schools Winter Tournament Week across the North Island last week. We had students representing Mt Roskill Grammar in Football, Hockey, Netball, Basketball, Curling and Rock Climbing. All of our students competed well and represented our school proudly to finish off an enjoyable winter season. A big thank you to all staff, parents, and students who were involved in the week and made it a successful one for our students.

See Below for the Final Placings of our teams:

- **1st XI Boys' Football** came 2nd in the Rex Dawkins Tournament in Whangarei losing the grand final 3-2 against Rangitoto College at Trigg Arena.
- **1st XI Girls' Hockey** also came 2nd in their Whakatane Tournament losing the grand final 1-0 to Tararua College.
- Both **Curling** teams had successful tournaments at the Avondale Ice Rink with the Girls' team coming 1st in their division and the Mixed team placing 2nd in their division.
- **Premier Girls' Netball** finished 21st out of 32 teams in the B Grade at Upper North Island Netball Champs confirming their place in the same grade for next year's tournament.
- **The Senior Boys' Basketball** team finished in 15th place in the AA Auckland Boys Basketball Champs held at North Shore Events Centre.
- **1st XI Boys' Hockey** finished in 10th place at the Mayhill Cup in Pukekohe.
- **1st XI Girls' Football** team took 16th place at the Kathy Seaward tournament held out in Whenuapai
- Final congratulations to **Stella Boyd** in Year 10 who competed in the NZ Secondary School Climbing Cup in Mt Maunganui finishing in 6th place in the Junior Girls Division.

- **Wrestling** - NZ Secondary School Championships held at Rutherford College

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| ○ Junior 61KG | ○ Senior 71KG |
| ○ Nate Glover 6 th | ○ Rayyan Mohamed Faizal 4 th |
| ○ Junior 75KG | ○ Neron Devanand 6 th |
| ○ Kalais Davey 2 nd | ○ Senior 80KG |
| ○ Junior 85KG | ○ Riki Sagato 3 rd |
| ○ Putanga Davey 3 rd | ○ Imaaz Ansari 5 th |
| ○ Junior 100KG | ○ Senior 110KG |
| ○ Zurich Minhas 3 rd | ○ Opera Aleki 3 rd |
| ○ Senior 60KG | ○ Caltex Award Most enthusiastic wrestler - Riki Sagato |
| ○ Joyeal Jude Nixon 2 nd | |



A big congratulations to all of the students!

Sports Congratulations

Rugby: Congratulations to Year 13 Zhavahn Nena who has been selected into the Auckland Rugby Under 18 Divisional Team for 2022. Good Luck Zhavahn, we hope you go well!

Archery: Congratulations to Year 12 Tessa Bolland who competed in the Auckland Secondary Schools Winter Aim competition recently. Tessa finished in 3rd place in the Under 19 Individual Recurve division out of 47 archers. Well done Tessa!



Winter Tournament Week 2022





Tongan Language Week



Chinese Cultural Trip

On Tuesday, August 2nd, our year 9 and 10 Chinese classes took on a journey to experience Chinese culture. There were many activities we experienced, such as Chinese painting, playing the Yaogu (a Chinese traditional instrument), and the Tie Dye. We even got to eat traditional Chinese food.

When we arrived we were introduced to the directors and teachers who work at the CNSST, the Chinese New Settlers Service Trust, and they told us about the incredible work they do to help people settle into New Zealand and educate others about Chinese culture.

The first activity we did was brush painting, where we got to use the calligraphy brush dipped in Chinese traditional ink and drew on rice paper. Following the teacher, she taught us how to draw cute pandas, which is the national animal of China. This was very challenging at first, but in the end, we were all very proud of what we achieved.

Afterwards, we played Yaogu, a traditional Chinese drum which was hung on the waist and played with wooden sticks, accompanied by dancing. 1,2,3,4... In a circle, we all danced and drummed to the beat of four different rhythms. At first, it was really confusing, though we gradually got the hang of the movements and rhymes. Then the lunch arrived in time. We had fried rice, fried noodles, steamed buns, and spring rolls. In Chinese they are called Chaofan, Chaomian, Baozi and Chunjuan.

After a delicious meal, our final activity for the day was the Tie Dye. This was where we learnt about its origins and the different techniques that we could employ to create our own t-shirts. We all thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with different colours and patterns, wondering what our creations would look like once we removed the rubber bands. Overall, our trip was truly an interesting and educational experience. We're very grateful to have had the opportunity to try so many new things and learn about different aspects of Chinese culture.

Written by Alice, Stella, and Vicky from 10CHN



Science Fair

On the morning of Friday 26 August, a small group of slightly nervous but very excited Year 9 students left the gates of MRGS to attend Science Fair 2022 at Michael Park School. This was the first in-person fair since the global pandemic, so the anticipation and excitement felt by students and staff alike was tremendous. The atmosphere was alive and buzzing, with a whole room full of fantastic projects on display and students passionately sharing their findings with one another - as well as with the judges. Our students represented the school with pride and we left with a 1st place in Research awarded to Deepti Ravi. Highly commended results were awarded to Haaris Bhutta, Gabe Familara, Hayden Carpendale, Richie Zhang and William Chen. The time, effort and innovative problem solving that these students poured into their projects was wonderful to see.



Deepti Ravi: 1st place Research Category

Spoken Word

In English this term our Year 10's are preparing for their Oral Presentations, and this week spoken word tutors from Action Education were in the classroom making performance writing fun.



Attendance

If your child is, absent for any reason including testing positive for Covid-19 or needing to isolate, please contact us:

- via email - attendance@mrgs.school.nz
- Via phone (09) 621 0069 You can check your child's attendance via the Kamar portal:
- Kamarportal.mrgs.school.nz

Please contact us if you need your username and password for the Kamar portal.

A reminder to keep your children at home if they show any signs of being unwell for the safety of the whole school community. It is important that your child does not return to school before their isolation period has finished. Positive cases should isolate for **7 days**.

Alumni News

Congratulations on the incredible season of Dawn Raids showing at Auckland Theatre Company. Featuring some of our Alumni that were involved on and off stage.

Talia-Rae Mavaega (2015), Lijah Mavaega (2021), Netane Taukiueva (2029), Nimeti Akatere & Jonjon Cowley Lupo (2016)



Abhishek Ravichandran [2021]

Was a member of the Identity Dance Company's debut adult 9-man crew. His team, I-Descendant won the bronze medal at the HHI 2022 World Championships @officialhhi and also placed 2nd in both prelims and semifinals — other placings included Swagganauts and Yung ID who both won silver in their respective divisions! Abhi's second year with the company, having danced in Swagganauts in 2021.



Myke Davis-Hoeft [2013] and Av-Niel Mohan [2017]

In their 2v2 Projekt Team won a silver medal an IBE (International breaking event) festival in Europe called "Open Your Mind".



Auckland Transport is working hard in your neighbourhood.

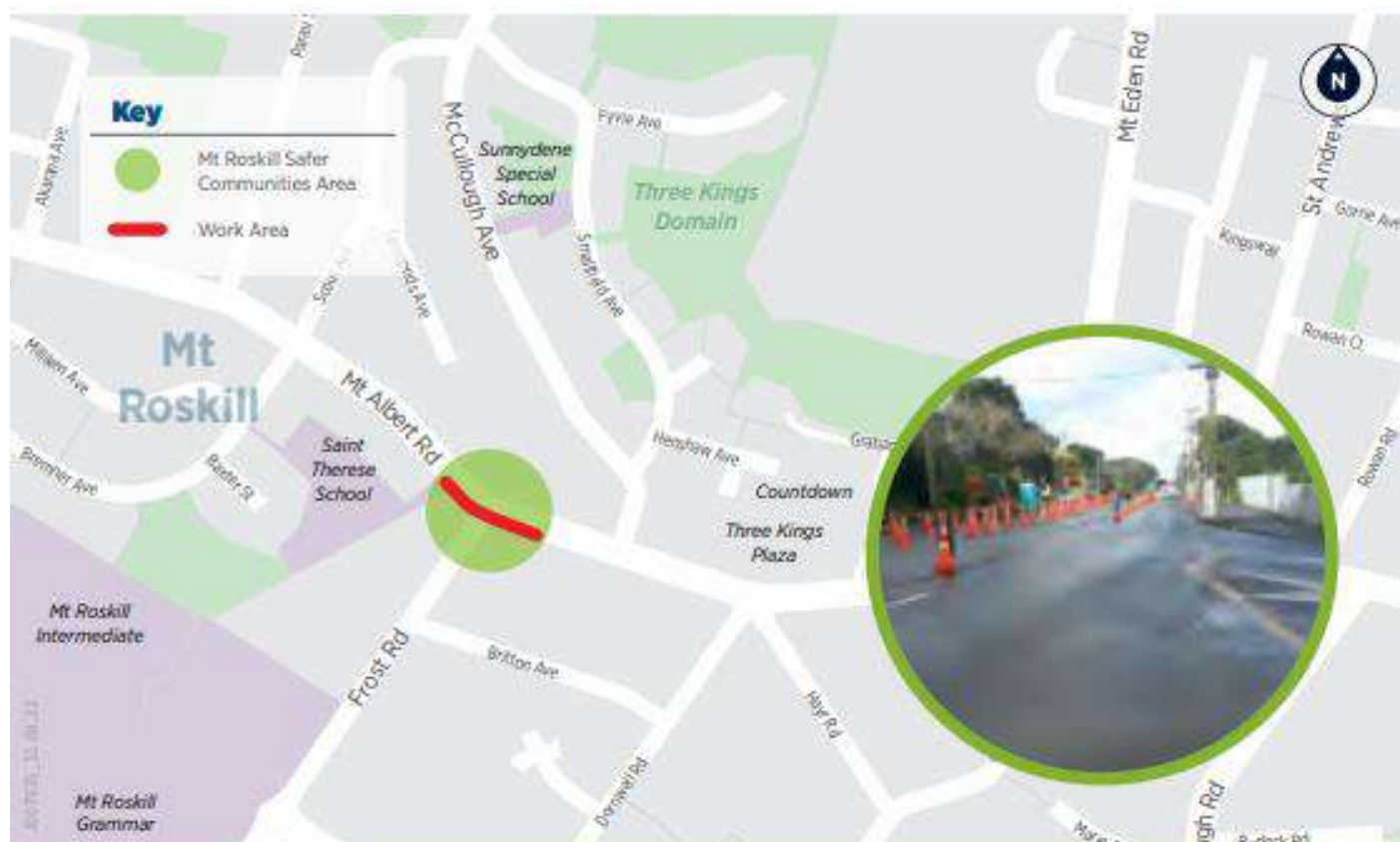
The contractor is currently working on the south eastern corner of Mt Albert Rd/Frost Rd to complete the footpath and drainage works. These works are expected to continue until late August.

The contractor will then move on to the south western corner of Frost Rd/Mt Albert Rd to complete the remaining footpath and traffic signal works for the intersection, which will take approximately 2 weeks.

During the works, there will be no exit from Frost Rd on to Mt Albert Rd until early September. Please plan your travel during this time.

The intersection improvements at Frost Rd/Mt Albert Rd are expected to be completed by early October, subject to weather and unforeseen circumstances.

Please take care when moving through the area.



For more information, visit: [AT.govt.nz/safemtroskill](https://at.govt.nz/safemtroskill)
For all other queries, call **09 355 3553** or email us on projects@at.govt.nz

