

April 2023: Term 1, Week 10



## From the Principal

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua: 'I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past'

Kia ora koutou

Since the last newsletter it has been a privilege to have been involved in a range of events creating and maintaining connection with our MRGS whānau. The 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee was a highlight last Saturday, with past pupils and teachers being welcomed 'home' to MRGS. Every time we connect with our alumni, we are grateful for the memories they share. Thanks to Mana Taihohi and the prefects who represented our current students with pride on the day, and for their many hours of preparation prior to the event. In addition to the welcome, the lunch and sports, the opportunity to look through memorabilia was noted as a real highlight for our alumni.

Congratulations to Mana Taiohi for their performance at the Kapa haka competition on Monday and to our sports teams for their commitment to teamwork in our two exchanges. It has been wonderful to be able to reconnect with Mahurangi and Pukekohe one again.

It was a privilege to share in the Iftar last night and I am grateful for those who enabled us to share in this.

The holidays afford you the opportunity to reflect on learning achieved, prepare for learning to come, and recharge. To our students and staff, enjoy the time over the Easter Break with friends and family. We look forward to seeing you all back on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Ngā manaakitanga



Karen Collins  
**Acting Principal**

## School Board

Kia ora koutou

I would like to thank kaiako, support staff and the senior leadership team for their oversight of a significant number of events in the past fortnight, in addition to the quality teaching and learning that happens every day for our taura.

Seeing the interactions between our alumni and current taura affirms that MRGS has been, and continues to be, a school that sets our taura up to be both successful, powerful learners and active, responsible citizens.

I wish you all a restful time over the Easter Break and look forward to sharing in future events planned for Term 2.

Ngā mihi mahana



Marjet Pot  
Presiding Member  
**School Board**

## Calendar

6 April	End of Term 1
24 April	Teacher only day - No students on site
25 April	ANZAC day - School Closed
<b>26 April</b>	<b>Term 2 Starts - 9:15am</b>
10 – 12 May	Level 3 Drama Production
5 June	King's Birthday – School Closed
<b>30 June</b>	<b>End of Term 2</b>

## Visit with Ministers Michael Wood and Jan Tinetti

We were pleased to host Minister Wood and Minister Tinetti on Friday 31st March. They were given a tour of our facilities, seeing our current building projects, future building prospects and our recently completed Learning Hub. They also visited classrooms, getting a chance to see our Year 11 Health Science Academy in action with Mr McGirr and a Year 13 Biology class with Ms Anderson.

Following this, we spoke with them about curriculum development and our hopes for literacy and numeracy in particular.

It was a pleasure to have both ministers here with us to experience MRGS.



## Attendance

School attendance is the most crucial indicator of achievement success. The more your child is at school, the likelier they are to achieve. Please support your child to be at school every day unless they are unwell.

## Phone Use in Lessons

At the start of this year, we reminded students about our expectations of phone use in lessons. Our school policy states that phones are not to be used or seen during lessons, unless directed by the teacher for learning purposes. We have had a positive response from majority of students in regard to keeping their phones in their bags during lessons so far.

We are currently collating whānau, students and staff to inform the next steps we take with improving the phone use in our lessons. Our ultimate goal is to improve our Learning Focused Culture in order to provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

## Chromebooks

MRGS is an established BYOD school, meaning that your child is recommended 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.

## Uniform

As we move into the winter terms of the year, please see below the winter uniforms reminders:

Reminders about uniform

- Hoodies cannot be worn to school, including under school jackets or jumpers
- Beanies are not part of the uniform
- Scarfs can be plain black, plain navy blue or the school scarf
- Students can wear a layer under their school shirts, but it must not be visible
- Plain black socks only
- Sandals are not part of our uniform

The School Uniform Shop will be closed for the school holidays.

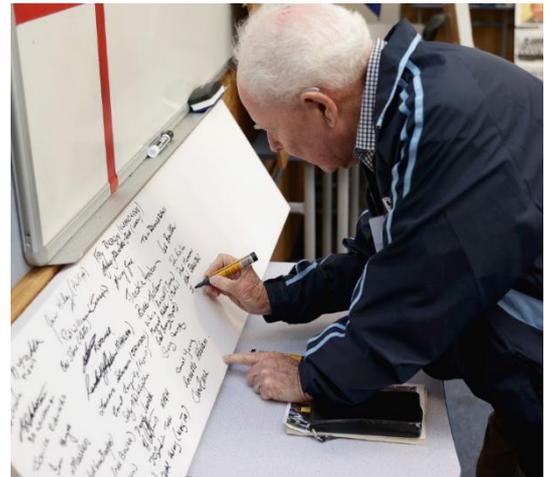
Re-opening 26 April (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8am - 9am)

# Year 13 Camp

It was a real pleasure to return to Motutapu with our year 13s. For many it was their first time on the island and we are sure it won't be their last. A huge thank you to Mr. Cornes and the other teachers who made it happen.



# 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion





## Spoken Word

Our senior spoken word poets hosted a poetry event in the quad on Tuesday, led by our wonderful head girl, Joshlyn Iyekekpolo. A big shout out to all the brave poets who shared their poems, and to the wonderful crowd who supported them. We're looking forward to hosting more events during the year



## Sports Exchange - Mahurangi

On Thursday March 30th we took a party of 130 students up to Mahurangi College to compete in the first of our traditional exchanges. We were received by a rousing pōwhiri and were then treated to a competitive display of sports across basketball, netball, football, hockey and rugby. Overall MRGS came out on top with wins in basketball, boys football, hockey and netball, and so we retained the trophy for another year.



# Sports Exchange - Pukekohe

On Tuesday April 4th we received a contingent of teams from Pukekohe High School. The competition was fierce and while we came away with solid wins in both girls and boys basketball and girls netball we were unsuccessful in our Rugby fixture, boys' hockey and girls' football. Our girl's hockey team and boys football teams had hard-fought draws for an overall 3-win, 3-loss and 2-draw result. Honours were shared and we look forward to next year when we'll travel to Pukekohe and seek a win overall.



## Sports

Mount Roskill Grammar students have had some important sporting moments this term. From excellence in the pool to high achievement on the cricket pitch we have seen some significant achievements from both individuals and teams competing in Auckland and beyond.



On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March Daniel Kregting was our sole representative at the New Zealand Secondary School Open Water Championships being held at the Blue Lake in Rotorua. Daniel won the 3.5km swim to be crowned NZ Secondary School Champion. He completed the event in 42 minutes and one second, beating 74 other hopefuls. The Secondary School event was held in conjunction with the Ocean Swim Series Legend of the Lake event and Daniel was also second overall in this event out of 349 competitors of all ages. An awesome effort, especially given he played water polo on Friday night before travelling to Rotorua at 5.00am!

Our First XI cricket team finished their summer on a high with a good win over Selwyn College, and had some key moments throughout the season including good wins against Howick College and old foes Avondale.

Volleyball is in good shape with both the boys and girls teams consistently winning their fixtures and putting out great performances at the Auckland Volleyball Champs.

Our Archery students have had some fantastic results and most notably Tessa Bolland who finished in 2nd Place in the Individual Recurve category after the 5th and final round of the Archery League, an outstanding achievement.

## Futsal

This term we had two teams participate in a NRF Futsal League, MRGS had a Junior boys team and an Open team compete. Both ended up in the same division, where the Juniors Boys had to compete against senior teams. Our Open mixed team qualified for the grand final after an amazing win in their semi-final which went to sudden death penalty shoot outs. Our open team came 2nd in their league. Awesome effort to everyone involved and we look forward to term 4 leagues.



### Term 2 Winter Sports - Coaches and Managers Needed

With winter sports starting at the beginning of Term 2, we are still on the hunt for a number of coaches and managers to support our students in their sport. We are looking for coaches and managers for the following codes; Football, Rugby Union, Netball, Hockey, Basketball and Curling. If you are able to help by coaching or managing a team this year, please get in touch with the Director of Sport - [cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz)

## Grammar Cup



Last weekend, our 1<sup>st</sup> XI football boys competed in an inter-school sports tournament against some formidable opponents from Mount Albert Grammar School and Takapuna Grammar School. Despite our team's best efforts, we were unable to secure a win in any of the three games played. We are immensely proud of our team's exceptional sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance on the field.

## Swimming



Congratulations Daniel Kregting, Ethan Stocks, Nemanja Markovic and Naia Tagiilima for their Silver medal in the U15 200m Freestyle Junior Boys' Relay. They also narrowly missed out on a medal in the 100m Freestyle Relay by half a second!

## Puketāpapa Whānau Forum

### PUKETĀPAPA WHĀNAU FORUM



MOUNT ROSKILL PRIMARY



DOMINION ROAD SCHOOL



THREE KINGS SCHOOL

التواصل مع  
أبنائنا

与我们的  
孩子联系

हमारे बच्चों  
के साथ संबंध

HUBUNGAN DENGAN  
ANAK-ANAK KITA

KE A'U ATU KETAU  
FENGAUEAKI  
MOE TOUTUPU

ہمارے بچوں کے  
ساتھ تعلق

STAYING CONNECTED  
TO OUR KIDS

TŪHONO KI Ā  
TĀTOU TAMARIKI



HILLSBOROUGH SCHOOL



MOUNT ROSKILL INTERMEDIATE



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR

FESO'OTAIGA MA  
TATOU FANAU

ارتباط با  
اطفال ما

子供たちの  
つながり

학생들과의  
지속적 유대

համայնքի  
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زمونډ اړیکې خپل  
ماشومانو سره

@ Mount Roskill Intermediate | 3rd May | 6 to 7:15 pm