

May 2023: Term 2, Week 2



From the Principal

Kia ora koutou

As we move into Term 2 I have already had the privilege of learning alongside my colleagues at Ōrākei Marae and standing alongside our prefects at the Mt Roskill ANZAC service.

In both cases I felt that we were upholding our values in action, connecting with our community, representing our Kura and being open to learning.

In assembly this week I talked about the importance of each student living our values by reflecting on the following things:

- Are they being kind both in person and online?
- Are they preparing ahead of time for assignments and assessments?
- Are they participating in both their learning and co-curricular activities by turning up?

Students can see in co-curricular activities the progress they can make if they practise, and the same applies to their learning. They need to not only turn up to classes on time but also turn up and be prepared to try, to learn and to receive ongoing feedback. Teachers are ready and willing to provide feedback to help them step by step reach their learning goals.

In conclusion, I asked them, if we were to speak with your family, what would you want them to hear about your kindness, your preparation and your participation.



Karen Collins
Acting Principal

School Board

Kia ora koutou

It was a privilege to attend Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Marae alongside all of our staff recently for a professional learning day. Our taurira are at the heart of what we all do, every day, as kaiako, support staff and your school board. We are grateful to Te Aroha Grace for the facilitation of our sessions and for reminding us that we are “chiefs guiding chiefs”.

Ngā mihi mahana



Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board

Calendar

9 May	Rolling Strike- no Year 12s at school
9 May	Year 9 Pasifika fono – 6:00pm, MRGS Learning Hub
10 – 12 May	Level 3 Drama Production
11 May	PPTA Teachers Strike- School closed for instruction
15 May	Class Photos
16 May	Rolling Strike- no Year 9s at school
17 May	Rolling Strike- no Year 10s at school
29 May – 2 June	Samoan Language Week
5 June	King’s Birthday – School Closed
6 June	Pasifika NCEA fono
13 June	Open Day
22 – 23 June	Rūpeke Dance Showcase
24 June	School Ball
27 June	Course Information Evening
30 June	End of Term 2

Ōrākei marae visit

On Monday 24 April our teaching staff and support staff had the privilege of being welcomed onto Ōrākei marae by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with Ngāti Whātua and to learn together from speaker and workshop facilitator Te Aroha Grace. We are grateful for the leadership of Whaea Lee Tawhai, David Syme and Whaea Jackie Sio in the lead up and throughout this special day.



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
- Scarves 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

Uniform shop hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8am - 9am. Term time only.

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 surveys from 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.

Class Photos

Class photos are on Monday May 15 in the school hall. Please check your student has the correct uniform so they look their best on the day. All students will receive a schedule, so they know when their class is having their photo taken. It's important that they check the schedule so they are on time.

English



Nalini Singh is a Roskill alumni and a *New York Times* bestselling author, and she's coming to speak to our aspiring writers in a lunchtime session on Wednesday, May 10 in the Learning Hub. Nalini will be speaking about the writing process and the creative process more generally, as well as giving tips on how to succeed as a writer.



The Auckland Writers Festival is on again and this time the presenters will be live. We'll be hearing from Jason Reynolds, author of *Long Way Down*, Gina Cole, Chloe Gong, Chris Tse and Dr Monty Soutar. Thursday 19 May is a full day of authors and poets. Tickets are \$18. Please see your English teacher for details



Languages: Japanese Experience



When we went into the class on April 4, we were surprised to see Japanese clothing (Kimono and Yukata) and a stuffed toy. The people who had organised it were from the Consulate General of Japan in Auckland. The moment we sat down we got a whole lot of information about Japanese culture, and we got to watch a quick video about Japan. I loved the video because it gave us a wonderful insight on Japan.

We got to learn about a robot seal named Paro which I thought was just a regular soft toy but it was actually a \$5,000 NZD robot. Paro could make noise, sleep, react to you and even move around. He was so soft and fun to take photos with.



Then we got to try on Japanese clothing and the first one demonstrated was a Kimono. I got to help demonstrate how to put on a Yukata and it was so fun and felt like a big warm robe. We then listened to the teachers talk to us a bit more about Japan before saying our goodbyes.

It was an amazing experience for me and the whole class and we all really enjoyed it.

- (Harry Mellor - Year 9)

Sports

Winter Sports Starting this Week:

Winter Sport has already started for some teams with all the others starting over the next two weeks. You can find draw information for all Mount Roskill Grammar Sports teams on the link below. Please double check this the day before in case of any last-minute changes to the draw: [2023 MRGS Sport Term 2- Weekly Sport Draws & Results](#)

Winter Sports - Coaches, Managers and Referees 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 and need parents to get involved. We need the following:

- Under 15 Boys Rugby Team Manager
- Junior Boys Football Coach
- Junior Boys Football Manager
- Netball Managers
- Under 15 Hockey Boys and Girls Hockey Managers
- Boys and Girls Football Referees
- Rugby Boys and Girls Referees
- Netball Umpires

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@mrqs.school.nz

Winter Sports Results:

1st XI Boys Football vs Green Bay High School, win 6-3.

Congratulations to Ibrahim Hameedi who scored a hatrick of goals on his 1st XI season debut

Lunchtime Sport and Recreation Activities:

We will have a variety of activities taking place across all three gyms and the Fitness Centre during lunchtimes each day throughout Term 2. Please check our Sports Instagram page ([mrqs.sport](#)) for what is happening each day or come along to the Sports/PE departments and the gyms to find out and get involved!

Mountain Biking

Mount Roskill Grammar had its first students competing in an Auckland Schools Mountain Biking event last weekend. Congratulations to two of our year 9 students, Tristan Duncan-Sutherland and Taylor Bower who represented MRGS in the School Mountain Bike Enduro event organised by the Pohutukawa Coast Bike Club, finishing 15th and 17th.

An awesome effort by the boys who will compete in a cross-country event this weekend in the Hunua Ranges!



Lacrosse



Congratulations to Alex Thomson for making the Under 18 New Zealand Representative Lacrosse team who played in Australia.

Basketball



Thanks to Mr Windsor for running a pre-season camp in Ohakune for the fourth year in a row. Following on from their success against the alumni team at the jubilee it was a chance to bond as a team and set some goals for the year. Senior Boys' Basketball were boys' team of the year in 2022. They are looking forward to another strong season.

Learning Hub Book Review



CLAP WHEN YOU LAND by ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

This book is a verse novel. Wait! Don't stop reading – this doesn't mean poetry or rhymes, a verse novel builds characters and a story just like a novel, but with fewer words and more breaks.

This style of writing actually makes verse novels perfect for young people who find reading difficult or don't enjoy it, because they still deal with gripping and topical themes but with far fewer words.

This story is told by two 16 year old girls. Camino lives in the Dominican Republic with her aunt and Yaharia lives in New York with her mother and father. Neither knows the other one exists.

Camino lives with her aunt because her father lives and works in New York for most of the year, to earn enough money to support them, he only comes home in the summer to spend time with her.

But when a plane travelling from New York to the Dominican Republic crashes and kills everyone on board, the two girls lives change forever.

This beautiful, moving and ultimately uplifting book is available at the school library.

Don't forget these books are also available for free from Auckland Public libraries – all you need to do is register for a (free) library card and you can access a huge collection. If your local branch doesn't have a copy, they will order one for you into the branch. And don't forget they have a huge online catalogue, including newspapers, magazines, ebooks and audiobooks that you can access on your phone. You just need your library card number.

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/>

Alumni

Congratulations to MRGS Alumni John Wutai-Tariau who won double gold in the Men's White Belt Jiu-Jitsu Federation tournament in April



Congratulations to MRGS Alumni Rahman Hekmat (2022) for being selected into the New Zealand Under 19 Men's Cricket team who will compete in Australia at a World Cup qualifying tournament.



New Zealand U19 Cricket World Cup Qualifier Fixtures:

Monday 12 June | New Zealand U19 v Japan

Tuesday 13 June | New Zealand U19 v Vanuatu

Thursday 15 June | New Zealand U19 v Samoa

Friday 16 June | New Zealand U19 v Fiji

Sunday 18 June | New Zealand U19 v Papua New Guinea

Monday 19 June | New Zealand U19 v Indonesia

Mount Roskill Grammar School

Pasifika

Year 9

PARENT FONONO 2023

Warm Pacific greetings to you all.

We humbly invite all MRGS Year 9 Pasifika parents & caregivers to join us to talanoa.

You will meet our Pasifika Parent Advisory Group, Pasifika Achievement Team and Pasifika Prefects of 2023 as well as learn more tips of how to navigate the MRGS school life.

WHEN: Tuesday 9th May, 2023

WHERE: MRGS Hub

TIME: 6:00pm start





CALLING ALL YOUNG POETS!

Entries are now open for the *Poetry Aotearoa Yearbook* student poetry competition, the award that has sent so many young poets on their way.

Entries will be judged by *Yearbook* editor Tracey Slaughter and the winning poems from each year group will be published in the 2024 edition of the *Yearbook*. Plus this year there is a monetary prize for the first, second and third prize winners of each year group, thanks to the University of Waikato: \$500 (first place), \$300 (second place) and \$100 (third place). Each winning poet and their school will also receive a copy of the book.

To enter: Please send us up to three previously unpublished original poems. Entries close 24 July 2023. The winners will be announced on Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day, 25 August 2023.

- Poems should be supplied in either Word or PDF format and can be of any length, any style and about any subject
- When you enter please indicate whether you are a Year 11, Year 12, or Year 13 student at a New Zealand school and please name your school
- Four prizes in each age-group category will be given: first, second, third and highly commended
- Successful entrants must agree to their names and schools appearing in media and publicity for the award, and for their poems to appear online.

Please send your entries to editorial@masseypress.ac.nz

