



Mount Roskill Grammar School  
**NEWSLETTER**



CELEBRATING MRGS'

# Astounding Achievements



## It's a slamdunk!

**Our MRGS Senior Boys Basketball Team advancing to the Premier Grade for the first time!**

**Winning 75-72 against Rangitoto College.**

## From our Principal

Kia ora koutou

As we reach the end of Term 1 and my first term at MRGS, I reflect on the last eleven weeks and what I have seen around the school so far.

I have enjoyed the positive environment that we have in this school with staff and students working well together and I have enjoyed seeing students in class focused on their learning. There have been many highlights out of the classroom as well with Polyfest, Music and Dance performances and a lot of sport taking place during the term.

Over the past two weeks we have taken part in our two annual sports exchanges with Mahurangi College and Pukekohe High School. Although the overall scores didn't go our way, they were both successful days with high levels of sportsmanship and competitiveness.

Another recent sporting success was the win for our Premier Boys Basketball team against Rangitoto College in their promotion/relegation match. It was a closely fought game with MRGS winning in the last play of the game. This means that our team will play in the Premier grade of the Auckland competition. Well done to the team and good luck for the season.

I would like to remind all our families of our move to the new mobile phone policy in Term 2. The new expectation is "Away for the Day", and students will need to keep phones off and in their bags for the whole school day including at break times. I have heard feedback from other schools about the positive impact this has had on the environment around school at break times and I am looking forward to seeing more positive interactions around the school next term.

Ngā manaakitanga

*Tom Webb*  
Tumuaki | Principal



# A Message from the School Board

Kia ora koutou

As we head into the term break I would like to acknowledge all of the kaiako, taura and whānau who have contributed to a settled Term 1, with a clear focus on learning.

As we reflect on Term 1 and all that has been achieved in the 11 weeks, it is exceptional how many facets of our school have excelled.

In the past week, the promotion of our Boys' Basketball team to the Premier division is a testament to the culture of this team created by Mr Windsor and those who support him.

It is wonderful to see our values of tūmanakotanga, manakitanga and whanaungatanga reflected in so many of our teams, groups and classroom spaces.

To kaiako and parents/caregivers involved in our co-curricular activities I thank you. To anyone thinking about helping, please do!

Our successful powerful learners and active responsible citizens need our support to reach their potential as both teams and individuals.

I wish you all a well deserved break and hope that the next two weeks enable you to both catch up, prepare and exhale.

Ngā mihi mahana

*Marjet Pot*  
Presiding Member  
School Board



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## Puketāpapa Youth Foundation Breakfast

On Monday 8th of April, Mr McGibbon and five of our students attended the Puketāpapa Youth Foundation's Community Breakfast along with other local youth representatives.

Whilst enjoying a nice breakfast catered by Pah Homestead Cafe, they made new connections with local school principals, head students, community group leaders and members of the Puketāpapa board.

During the morning they contributed their ideas on several topics such as academics, sustainability, the importance of Puketāpapa, and youth involvement.



## Phone use

We are really encouraged by the positive response from students regarding their phones at school. Students are doing a great job of having their phones away during lessons, and with the ongoing conversations about “Away for the Day” in Term 2, we are confident that our students are ready to shift to these different expectations.

A reminder, this means students’ phones are to be in their bags, all day whilst at school. You can contact your child via admin, and we will endeavor to get messages to them. They can still easily contact you at the very end of the school day to arrange any transport or after-school plans.

We look forward to enacting “Away for the Day” in Term 2, to support positive engagement, whanaungatanga and wellbeing here at MRGS.



## Attendance

Our current attendance percentage is **83.8%**.

Each week, you receive an attendance email which gives you a breakdown of your child’s attendance over the last 3 weeks.

We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about this, and look for opportunities to improve their attendance where it is appropriate.

You can access an overview of attendance via the Kamar portal where the detailed date ranges, by period and day by day can be seen.

## Key Dates

Mon 29th April	<b>Start of Term 2</b>
Wed 8th - Thurs 9th May	<b>Drama Production</b> <b>‘Ed Sheeran Taste like Chicken’</b>
Tues 14th May	<b>Māori Whānau Hui</b>
Fri 17th May	<b>Blood Day</b>
Mon 20th May	<b>Teacher Only Day</b>
Thurs 23 May	<b>MRGS Open Day 3.30-7pm</b>
Mon 27th - Fri 31st May	<b>Samoan Language Week</b>
Wed 29th - Fri 31st May	<b>Band Camp</b>
Mon 3rd June	<b>King’s Birthday - School Closed</b>

## An authentic Japanese experience

On Wednesday 27th March, 18 senior students learning Japanese went on a school trip to the Japanese Restaurant 'Nishiki' in Ponsonby where we experienced an authentic Japanese meal.

The restaurant served us different types of sushi rolls, pork dumplings and tempura. The meal was accompanied by rice and miso soup. Some of the other students had vegetarian and pescatarian options based on their dietary preferences.



For dessert, we got to choose our ice-cream flavours from chocolate, vanilla, sesame and matcha. We also had lucky draws at the end of our meal which gave out small prizes.

Kojima sensei, arigatō gozaimashita for organising this experience. A special thanks to Mr McAlpine and Whaea Lee for driving the school vans.

Written by Catherine Zhao

## NZ Secondary School Online Chess Competition

On Thursday, 4th April, 15 of our best chess players took on NZ's secondary school chess teams in an online competition.

After 73 matches, we lost our last game to finish second, just ½ a point behind the winners. Despite this loss, our team has gained experience and an insight into the strength of our opponents and we move on to in-person matches next month.



Well done to **Ansh Trivedi**, **Arhaam Syed**, and **Dev Kumar**, who only dropped one point each. Congratulations to **Leo Kitson-Paull** as the most improved player. And thanks to all the team and Mr McDougall!

Chess training is on Mondays - Thursdays at H8 during lunch and at Mount Roskill Primary School library on Thursdays 3pm to 5pm.



# MRGS PERFORMING ARTS

## Level 3 Drama Production ‘Ed Sheeran Taste like Chicken’

Our Year 13's proudly present *Ed Sheeran Taste like Chicken*. A hilarious environmental comedy about NZ and its diverse wildlife. This will be performed in the Performing Arts studio on **8th & 9th of May**. Tickets are available on [Humantix](#). Come along and join our heroes as they try to foil the corrupt Barracuda industries.

A joint effort between our Year 12 and 13 Theatre Tech as they work tirelessly to create puppets and costumes for the Level 3 Drama Production of Ed Sheeran Taste like Chicken.

The Year 12 Theatre techs spent the first half of Term 1 creating mini Ed Sheeran puppets and in Week 10, they finally gifted the puppets to the cast and director to use in rehearsal. It was so lovely to watch the puppet creators see their hard work on stage and coming to life!



The Year 13 Theatre Techs costume designs were developed using feedback from the actors, planning use of budget and practical materials. The final renderings were presented to the director and the selected costumes are being made by some of our class which will be worn by the actors next term.

They also have some students designing lighting, sound and set for the production and they will be packing it and setting things up during the upcoming school holidays.

## Shakespeare's Globe Costume Competition

L3 Theatre Tech students - **Isabella Marsters McLennan**, **Nicole Sue** and **Tanishka Desai** have been working on submitting designs for the Shakespeare's Globe Costume Competition.

This competition asks students from all over Aotearoa to read a Shakespeare Play.

They then chose a character from the play and design their performance costume.

These students chose to enter this competition with the hopes of winning prize money, as well as a trip to Wellington to see their constructed costume!



## Rainbow Games - Rangatahi Day

On Friday April 5th, as part of the Rainbow Games, a group of our students got to participate in a special Rangatahi Day.

This was an opportunity to celebrate with others from the Rainbow community in a completely safe environment as they joined in many fun activities and met new friends in the process.

A highlight was getting to rub shoulders with the star of Ru Paul's Drag Race Down Under, Anita Wig'it. Bring on next year!



### Alumni News

Kate Wang, an International student from MRGS received a \$20K scholarship from Auckland University through the 2024 International School Leaver Scholarship.

Kate was an International student from China and was with us for five years and is now studying Architecture at Auckland University.

Kate was heavily involved in the music department playing the piano, clarinet and alto saxophone.

Kate said that all the teachers at MRGS were amazing and here time at the school is her best memory.

What an amazing achievement for Kate!

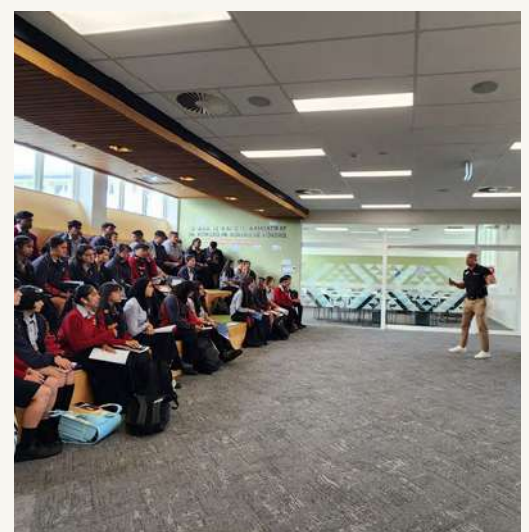
## Careers

This term has been a busy one for the Careers Department with liaison visits from tertiary providers including the University of Auckland, AUT, University of Otago, Massey University, University of Canterbury and Bond University in Australia.

These visits were well attended, giving students an insight into university study and life.

Alongside this, students also had the opportunity to visit the Cordon Bleu School, an architecture firm, STEM workshops at the university and a women in trades expo. Our students have had opportunities to improve their knowledge of the different careers that are out there.

Visit [MRGS Careerwise website](#) for all careers opportunities.



# A week at MRGS



The Year 9 Performing Arts Academy class completed their first performance of "The Lion King" using the original scripts and characters. They performed it to the Year 11 Drama students.



Mr Lakhan's Level 2 Geography students on Carr Road, exploring how land is utilized in an industrial zone.



MacLean Centre students receiving football coaching in preparation for the Special Olympics Football Tournament.



Poet & performer Ken Arkind joined us at an assembly to promote WORD – The Front Line, an inter-school spoken word competition.



MRGS Rock Climbing Team participated in their first Rock Climbing Competition Event.



As part of the study of Organic Chemistry, Mr Shiu's Year 13's were investigating oxidation of aldehydes using Tollen's reagent and Benedicts Solution.





Mount Roskill Grammar School

# SPORT NEWSLETTER



## Winter Sport Football and Hockey Sock Requirements

For all students who are participating in Football and or Hockey for the school next term, these students are required to purchase the Navy Sports socks for



these codes and should have them ready for their first game of the season.

Information about where to purchase these can be found through the following this [link](#).

## Mouthguards

Mouthguards are an essential piece of safety equipment for many winter sports.

All students who participate in the following sports must have a mouthguard and be wearing it in every game - Rugby, Basketball, Hockey and Lacrosse.

Mouthguards can be purchased at external retail stores or through the school accounts office for \$8.00.



## Volunteers Needed! Coaches, Managers & Officials

The MRGS Sports Department is always on the lookout for volunteers to support in coaching, managing and officiating sports throughout the year in all of our Sports Codes. If you are interested and available to support a sport, please contact the Director of Sport - [cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz)



[@mrgs.sport](https://www.instagram.com/mrgs.sport)

Follow the MRGS Sports page on Instagram for up-to-date information regarding sports and recreational activities happening at the school during lunch and after school.

## Sports Draw & Results

Please use the link below for the MRGS Sports Draw for Term 2. Please ensure you double-check the draw the day before a game or event as this document is updated regularly with any last-minute venue or time changes.

[MRGS Sports T2 - Weekly Sports Draw & Results](#)

# Mahurangi Sports Exchange @ MRGS



# Pukekohe Sports Exchange @ Pukekohe College



## Sporting Successes

On April 5th, the MRGS Senior Boys Basketball Team had a promotion/relegation match against Rangitoto College to advance into the Premier Grade for the first time.

The team showed outstanding resilience to come from behind to win in the game's dying seconds, winning 75-72! Premier grade here we come!

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Basketball team and everyone involved in the team.



MRGS had two students - **Theo Briggs** and **Daniel Fairey** competing in the Orienteering Sprint Finals after some great performances in the zone competitions.

Congratulations to **Daniel** who finished in the top half of the field of 45 students!

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## Student Devices

MRGS is an established BYOD school, meaning that our students need to have a device to support their learning in the classroom. MRGS' teachers use the Google Classroom platform with all their classes as a way of distributing information, assigning classwork and homework tasks, and giving feedback on assessments.

Through our ICT partner New Era, we give our community access to a purchasing portal called **Acquire**. New Era seeks to provide our community with the most competitive pricing for any new device purchases.



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**MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR PRESENTS**

**BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYMARKET**

# **ED SHEERAN TASTES LIKE CHICKEN**

**WRITTEN BY ALISTER EMERSON**



**MAY  
8TH  
9TH**

**7:00 pm Performing Arts Studio**

**Tickets from \$10 at  
Humanitix**

