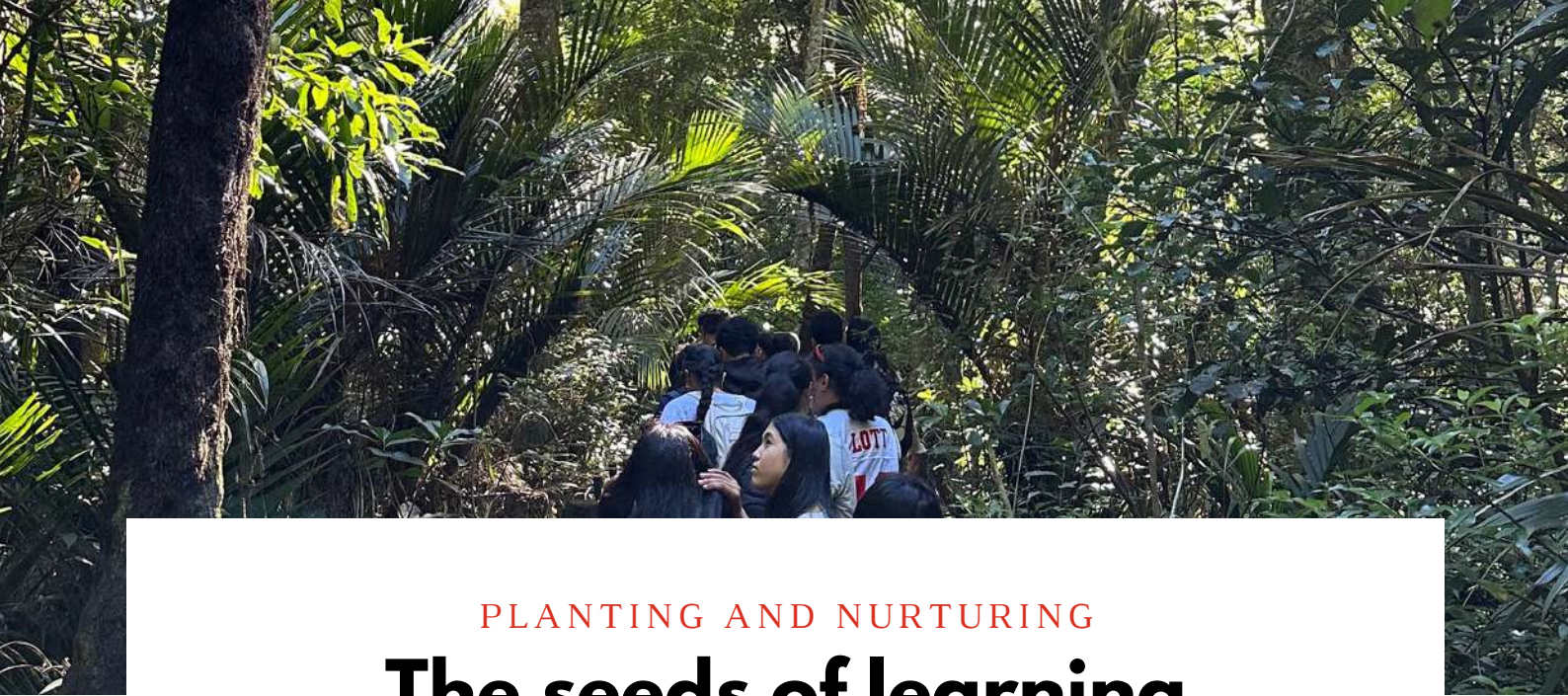




Mount Roskill Grammar School  
**NEWSLETTER**



PLANTING AND NURTURING  
**The seeds of learning**



**Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai**

“Nurture the seed and it will blossom”

## From our Principal

Kia ora koutou

We are now over halfway through Term 1 and school life is getting busy with sports practices and games, Polyfest practices and events happening after school.

Thank you to those Year 10 and 11 parents who were able to join us for the NCEA information evening on Monday 4th March. This is obviously an important year for these students as they start their journey into NCEA.

NCEA Level 1 is changing this year to incorporate the new Numeracy and Literacy Co-requisites. All of our Year 11 students took part in these assessments last year as Year 10 students and the majority have passed this new requirement.

As well as these Co-requisites, students will need to achieve 60 credits across their five subjects. The slides from the evening are available [here](#).

The first of our mentoring sessions takes place this Thursday 14th March where all Year 11, 12 and 13 students and families will meet with their mentors to discuss progress so far this year.

Conversations between our students, their whānau and our teachers are an important part of supporting our students and building a partnership with home and we hope that you can join us on the day.

These meetings are an important time to ask questions about NCEA or how your child is progressing. Please discuss these at our mentoring meetings.

Ngā manaakitanga

*Tom Webb*  
Tumuaki | Principal



# A Message from the School Board



Kia ora koutou

I would like to thank kaiako for their preparation for our upcoming mentoring conferences. The mentoring programme for Years 11-13 taura creates and continues a vital partnership with kaiako and whānau.

It allows us to track and support each individual's progress and next steps.

It is fantastic to see our kaiako winning the national reading challenge.

To know that there is a love of reading within our staff provides encouragement, and a foundation, for our taura to read.

Given the importance of literacy in all subjects, "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of their deep and continuing needs, is good for them." – *Maya Angelou*

Ngā mihi mahana

*Marjet Pot*  
Presiding Member  
School Board

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## Mentoring Session 1

The purpose for mentoring at MRGS is to provide a clear picture to both whānau and ākonga of current academic progress and guidance towards ākonga achievement.

Mentoring is for students from Years 11-13 and the conversations should be ākonga led and facilitated by the mentor.

This year, we have three mentoring sessions with our first session taking place this **Thursday 14th March**. This session will be 15 mins long and the first session will start at 1:30pm.

If your child is in Years 11-13, you should have received an email from the school inviting you to make a booking for your child's mentoring session.

Please ensure that you have made your booking before Wednesday 13th March.

The other two mentoring dates that have been scheduled are:

Mentoring 2: Thursday 20th June (T2, Week 8)

Mentoring 3: Thursday 17th Oct (T4, Week 1)



Kaiako working towards the upcoming mentoring conference.

## Phone use

Our policy on phone use in Term 1 is that during lessons students' phones should not be visible and should be on silent. Students can be enabled to use their phones during lessons at the teacher's discretion.

From Term 2, there is a country wide requirement for phones to be "Away for the Day". This means that once students are at school, their phones need to be in their bags, on silent for the duration of the school day. This includes break times.

We are utilising Term 1 to talk with students and staff about this and what this will look like at school, as well as keeping parents updated.

In 2023 our teachers and students did a lot of work to have phones away. This saw an increase in student engagement and focus during learning. We are hopeful with the addition of phones away during break times we will see more interpersonal, face to face connection between students and teachers, students being more involved in activities during lunch time, and less distraction from their phones.

We look forward to your support as this is implemented from the start of Term 2. If you urgently need your child during the school day, please contact admin at 09 621 0050 (ext 0).



## Attendance

Our year has started well. We currently have an average percentage of **86.5%**.

Students who attend all their lessons, on time, every day, are much more likely to succeed in their learning. Please check the attendance emails you receive each week which gives you a summary of your child's attendance. You can also see live updates of their attendance each day via the Kamar portal.

A reminder that we encourage families as much as possible to take holidays during the school holiday period.

## Key Dates

Tues 12th Mar	<b>Senior Progress Reports Sent</b>
Wed 13th Mar	<b>Tongan Fiafia Night</b>
Thurs 14th Mar	<b>Mentoring 1 - Juniors finish at 12.35pm</b>
Fri 15th Mar	<b>Junior Progress Reports Sent Samoan Fiafia Night</b>
Tues 19th Mar	<b>Junior Report Evening</b>
Wed 20th - Sat 23rd Mar	<b>Polyfest</b>
Fri 29th Mar - Tues 2nd Apr	<b>Easter - School Closed</b>
Thurs 4th Apr	<b>Mahurangi Sports Exchange @ MRGS</b>
Thurs 11th Apr	<b>Pukekohe Sports Exchange @ Pukekohe</b>
Fri 12th Apr	<b>End of Term 1</b>

## Missed NCEA Assessments

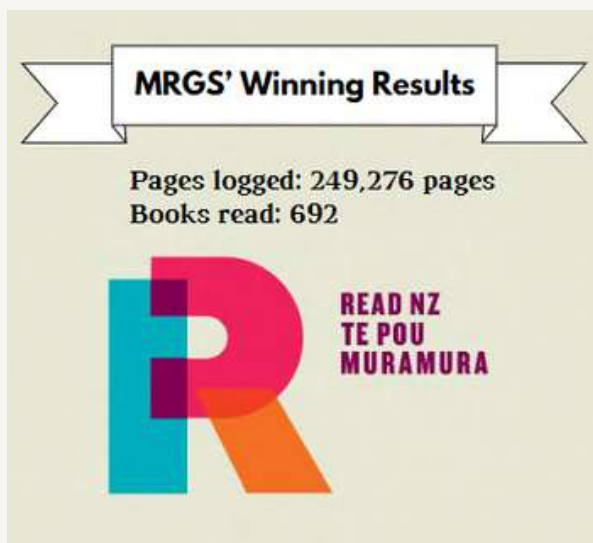
While it is important to make the best effort to be present for all of your NZQA assessments, there may be some instances where you miss an assessment. In these situations it is important to contact the Academic Dean of the house as soon as possible.

We ask that you fill in [this linked form](#) and provide supporting documentation. A good rule of thumb for a justifiable absence are those events that are unexpected: sickness, funerals, etc.

Where there is an expected event we invite you to reach out as early as possible. There may be some provisions we can make but we need as much time as possible to check feasibility and can make no guarantees in these cases.

For more information on Assessment procedures, please refer to the [2024 Assessment Handbook](#) or to our [Curriculum site](#).

## Winners of Read New Zealand Challenge



**Ka pai te mahi Mount Roskill Grammar kaiako - we are so proud of you.  
Reading really does make life better!**

Early in December, Read NZ issued a challenge to all NZ kaiako to GET READING for the summer.

Schools across all of NZ took part, with our school taking an early lead in the team challenge. When it ended on 26th January, there was no doubt that the kaiako at Mount Roskill Grammar School were the most dedicated readers in NZ!

In fact, four of our amazing staff read more than 50 books in the ten week period, and one even read over 150 books. Our very own **Ms Chavez** won 'Reviewer of the Challenge' for her insightful, detailed and helpful reviews of the books she read.

Our tireless bookworms have won MRGS:

- Aotearoa, NZ books for the library,
- a school visit from a NZ author to talk to our students
- a workshop with Te Awhi Rito Reading Ambassador - Alan Dingley.

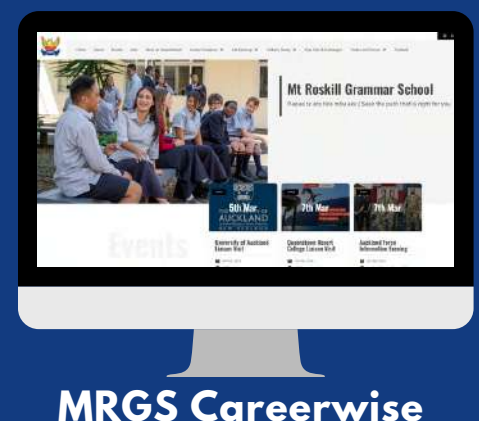
Read about our achievement in this [NZ Read article](#).

## Careers

The [MRGS Careerwise website](#) is where you can find all career related information. The website includes information about:

- upcoming events such as university liaison visits, webinars and open days
- information on courses
- apprenticeships & jobs
- tertiary scholarships

Booking appointments: Students can book an appointment with a careers advisor by using the **'Book an appointment' tab** on the MRGS Careerwise website. Students will need to login into Outlook by entering their school Gmail account details to book an appointment.



# A week at MRGS



Year 12 Biology Class on a Stratification Field Trip (observing forest layering patterns) at Totora Park.



MacLean Centre students improving their kitchen skills by learning to make egg sandwiches in their cooking class.



Mrs Seth's Year 10 Science class' rocket experiment.



The Amnesty International Group and Tongan Group hosting their fundraising sales. A busy atmosphere filled with the smell of baked goods and sausages.



Happy cooks! - Mrs Brown's Year 10 Food practical class learning to work safely in a kitchen and following a macaroni & cheese recipe.

## Relief Teacher Aide Vacancy

We are currently looking for a relief Teacher Aide to join our MacLean Centre (for students living with a disability).

The successful applicant will have strong interpersonal skills and be passionate about supporting the learning of teenage students with special needs.

You will work as part of a team and be committed to learn and apply specialised teaching approaches.

This role may require Tiaki duties and is a **term time only position**.

The Terms of employment are as per the Support Staff in Schools' Collective Agreement 2022 – 2024. This is a B grade role.

Applicants must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work visa.

Please email your CV to **[vacancies@mrqs.school.nz](mailto:vacancies@mrqs.school.nz)**  
Closing date is **Thursday 28th March**.



## 2024 Ethnic Youth Academic Awards

On Monday March 4th, two Mount Roskill Grammar high achievers were celebrated along with twenty of their peers from across Auckland at the 2024 Ethnic Youth Academic Awards Night.

This event was hosted by the NZ Ethnic Women's Trust in partnership with the Ministry of Education at the Fickling Convention Centre in Three Kings.

MRGS students - **Alla Ali** (pictured left) and **Ziad Shammout** were celebrated due to their excellent Level 2 achievement.

All students were awarded certificates and medals, and Alla gave a speech on behalf of all the students there in which she highlighted the help and support of her family and teachers, and outlined her hopes for the future.



## Health Science Academy

The Health Science Academy had their first parent fono evening on Wednesday 6th March.

70 ākonga and 'Aiga/Whānau attended the presentation that introduced Mrs Seth and Mr Hamilton, and the rest of the team. It was a wonderful evening of creating connection followed by good kai.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead for the Health Science Academy students.

# National Library grant replaces books lost in flood

Last January, the school's library collection was badly damaged in the Auckland floods. We lost around 6,000 books, which was roughly 60% of a collection that had been lovingly built up over decades. It was a big blow for us as we opened our new library space without the one thing libraries are supposed to have ... lots of BOOKS!!!!

We were overjoyed when the National Library advised us we had been chosen to receive a grant from the government's School Library Collection Recovery Programme, set up straight after the flooding, which enables us to replace a large part of our lost collection in one go.

With input, requests and recommendations from teachers in the departments, experts at the National Library and - most importantly - our students, we worked hard to put together an incredible, modern, diverse and exciting collection.

Over the course of this term we are expecting to receive almost 5,000 brand new books and graphic novels.

We are so grateful and proud to be able to provide our deserving Roskill ākonga and our beautiful new library space with this unique collection. The Library Team is working hard to get the books on the shelves as fast as possible. It is hard to keep up with all the new books that keep arriving, but for the Library Team, too many books is a fantastic problem to have!



*A lovely sight - On the first day of term, the Library Team were welcomed back by a delivery of over 2,000 books.*







Mount Roskill Grammar School

# SPORT NEWSLETTER



## Sporting Success: Orienteering

Last Wednesday, Mount Roskill Grammar School hosted one of the Central Zone Orienteering events.

Students from around the central zone area came to compete and navigate their way around the Mount Roskill Campus grounds.

MRGS had six students competing in the event which was the second one of the season.

Big thanks to Lactic Turkey for approaching us to host the event and for running such an amazing afternoon.

There are two events left for the season and anyone who still wishes to participate can contact:

**[christine.brown@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:christine.brown@mrgs.school.nz)**

## 2024 Winter Sport Registration

All students who are interested in participating in a summer sport or recreation activity please complete the [Winter Sport 2024 Registration Form](#). Take a look at all of the different options and get involved in something new at MRGS. This registration form will be open until Monday 25th March with team trials and practices beginning after.

All team entries are due in the weeks following this date so commitment is required from the beginning to ensure enough numbers for a team to be entered into a competition.



**[@mrgs.sport](#)**

## 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.bitcener@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:cameron.bitcener@mrgs.school.nz)**



## Sports Draw & Results

Please use the link below for the MRGS Sports Draw. 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.

**[2024 MRGS Sports Term 1 - Weekly Sports Draw & Results](#)**

## Sporting Successes (cont.)

Congratulations to **Prithvi Shan Kadavil** (pictured below) who scored 104 for the Junior Cricket team in their match against Takapuna Grammar a few games ago.

An outstanding achievement to get a century!



Last week, we had three sprinters competing in the College Sport Auckland Zone Athletics Champs at Mt Smart Stadium.

**Marcus Lyden-Mau** (top left) competed in the Junior Boys 100m and 200m, **Isabelle Ngai** (top right) in the Intermediate Girls 100m and **Ewan Gibson** in the Intermediate 100m.

Conditions were tough with strong gusts of wind and heavy rain however all of the students proudly represented Mount Roskill Grammar and gave it their all!

## Alumni News



**Harjot Johal** (pictured middle from above) is an ex-student of MRGS. Last July, he received his first domestic contract with the Auckland Aces Cricket team.

He previously missed out on the opportunity to represent the Auckland Under 19s at the NZC National Tournament. However, his persistence and attitude drove him to continue working hard. As an emerging seam bowler for the Eden Roskill Cricket Club, he impressed the Auckland A and ACES environments, earning him his well-deserved partnership.

This year, he debuted for the Auckland Aces Cricket Team at the Otago Oval, Dunedin in a match between the Otago Volts. They won the match against their opponent with Harjot contributing a great bowling performance.



## Uniforms



**To purchase online:** Visit [www.elizabethmichael.co.nz](http://www.elizabethmichael.co.nz)

Click the 'Login/Register' tab at the top right of the page. Register your details and use the school code **RG299** when prompted at the bottom of the page.

You will receive a registration email and access to the online uniform shop.

**Alternatively**, you can visit Elizabeth Michael's uniform shop located at **65 New North Road, Eden Terrace**.  
Mon - Thurs: 9 am-5 pm  
Fri: 9 am-4 pm and  
Sat: 9 am-1 pm

For any WINZ clients, please give your account manager **Elizabeth Michael** as your CPU reference. Details are CUR001215763

## 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, 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 2024 academic year. Students can apply for these through our accounts office by making a **\$50 deposit**.



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