



Mount Roskill Grammar School  
**NEWSLETTER**



CULTURES GROW ON

## The vines of tradition



## Polyfest Victories

The MRGS Tongan Group lands first place for their *Faha'iula* and second for their *Lakalaka*.

Our Kapa Haka group, Mana Taiohi placed second in *Mau Rākau*.



## From our Principal

Kia ora koutou

I want to start by congratulating all of our Polyfest groups who performed at the annual ASB Polyfest last week. Our Kapa Haka, Samoan and Tongan groups all represented themselves, their school and their culture proudly. The groups performed with passion and skill and we achieved some great results.

Congratulations in particular to our Kapa Haka group for their second placing in *Mau Rākau*, our Tongan group for their first place in the *Faha'iula* and second place in the *Lakalaka* and to **Halle Kaufusi** for her first place and **Juliet Koonwaiyou** for her second place in the Samoan Speech competition.

It was also a privilege to see so many whānau/ 'aiga at the Tongan and Samoan Fiafia nights and the Kapa Haka dress rehearsal in the week leading up to Polyfest.

I would like to thank all of our student leaders, staff and tutors who have given hours of their time to make it possible for our Polyfest groups to perform this year.

Sport in school continues to go well with summer sport in the last few games of the season and preseason games for our winter sports codes starting.

Our 1st XI Boys Football and our Boys Basketball teams both have important promotion and relegation games coming up. We also had cricket games taking place with our girls and boys teams both competing in the summer tournament week.

Thank you to those families who were able to join us at our Junior Parents Evening on Tuesday 19 March. There were many positive conversations during the evening and a real buzz in the school as parents and students met with subject teachers for the first time this year.

We always value meeting with families and talking about the progress of our students. These opportunities are important in building the partnership between home and school.

Ngā manaakitanga

*Tom Webb*

Tumuaki | Principal





# A Message from the School Board



Kia ora koutou

MRGS taura have experienced outstanding results in the past fortnight. Special mention to **Daniel Kregting** for his exceptional swimming results.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the kaiako, families, tutors and senior taura for their leadership of our Polyfest groups.

The success of our groups comes from this commitment to both excel and connect with each other. Congratulations to you all.

Celebrating our diversity is a real strength at MRGS and it was also great to see kaiako and taura sharing in Iftar on Thursday evening. Thanks to our student leaders and kaiako for sharing this with us.

As we head into the last few weeks of the term, the Easter break is well placed as a time of both rest and reflection.

Ngā mihi mahana

*Marjet Pot*  
Presiding Member  
School Board

## Iftar Night

A sense of community, reflection and delicious food was shared in the hall on the 27th of March.



# Phone use

A reminder, from the first day of Term 2, we will be implementing “Away for the Day”, as per the government requirement for all schools in New Zealand. Once students are at school, they will be required to have their phone in their bags, on silent, at all times.

If your child were to be seen with their phone, they will firstly be reminded of the expectations of phones and asked to put it away. The next step would be a conversation with their Dean. For subsequent times, you may be required to meet with the Senior Leader of your child’s House, and your child will lose the privilege of having their phone with them at school for a certain number of days.

We are encouraged by the success we had with phones in class, and students recognising the benefits of their phones being away, and the opportunity to strengthen their engagement.

Away for the day enables students to strengthen their interpersonal skills and relationships, actively participate in lunch time activities, and remove themselves from the negative aspects of phone use while at school.

If you urgently need to get hold of your child during the school day, please contact the administration team at 09 621 0050 (ext 0).



# Attendance

Our current attendance percentage is **84.7%**.

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

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>
Mon 29th April	<b>Start of Term 2</b>
Fri 17th May	<b>Blood Day</b>
Mon 20th May	<b>Teacher Only Day</b>
Mon 27th - Fri 31st May	<b>Samoa Language Week</b>
Wed 29th - Fri 31st May	<b>Band Camp</b>
Mon 3rd June	<b>King’s Birthday - School Closed</b>





# Polyfest 2024 - Tongan Group

The MRGS Tongan Group performed at the ASB Polyfest on what was a very rainy day on Saturday, the 23rd of March.

The group was led by the famous *punake* (tutor) Mafi Malanga, who has been Mount Roskill's *punake* for the MRGS Tongan Group for the past 30 years.

The group's male leader was **Ofa Ki Leva Tuuefiafi** and its female leader was **Po'alo'i Toutai. Joten Valita** and **Crystal Talakiaatu** was the group's deputy male and female.

The Tongan group performed two items on the day with their first item being a girls dance called *Faha'iula* and the second item - a mixed dance called *Lakalaka*.

The excitement on stage was high as the students had spent lunchtimes, after school hours and Saturdays learning the words to their two items and perfecting their choreography.

Not only were the students very invested in their performance, so were many of their parents (as it is with all Tongan groups). Parents had spent just as much time attending practices, as well as purchasing costumes and providing food and beverages during their practices.

Parents joined the group on stage as part of the band and as back up singers.

The school was ecstatic when the group won second prize for the *Lakalaka* and first prize for the *Faha'iula*.

Malo 'aupito to Mafi Malanga for all his hard work and dedication to the group. We would like to extend our thanks to Mr Tui'ali'i, Mr Tu'ua, Mrs Fox and Ms Bogle for organizing the group.

A special thank you to the teachers in charge - Mr Naufahu and Ms Maka.





# Polyfest 2024 - Tongan Group





# Polyfest 2024 - Mana Taiohi

Our roopu, Mana Taiohi have been training vigorously over the past several weeks in preparation for ASB Polyfest 2024.

Led by **Tanya Tukia** nō Ngāti Kahungunu and **Lucian Reedy** nō Te Aupouri, our rangatahi took the stage leaving no stone unturned!

With an exhilarating entrance onto the stage, the group followed it up by traditional chants paying homage to Puketāpapa. A new action song was performed, describing the migration of our rangatira Hape and our school haka honouring our hāpori.

They finished their performance on a high note and ended up landing second place in the Mau Rākau.

Mana Taiohi represented themselves and MRGS with so much mana and pride!

It was such an inspiring experience for our Teina from Mount Roskill Primary School who came to support our Tuakana, Mana Taiohi.

To our Year 13s, it has been an honour to watch you all grow, to see you stand tall and proud as Māori and we know you will all go on to do great things.

**Nā: Whaea Lee and Whaea Jackie.**

***'Ka hāraunga ngā tapuwae mō ngā uri whakatipu'***

*'Your legacy has been imprinted and will flourish through future generations.'*





# Polyfest 2024 - Mana Taiohi





## Polyfest 2024 - Samoan Group

Talofa lava, my name is Kalani Mamea. I'm a prefect at Mount Roskill Grammar School and was a part of the Samoan group for 2024. I was a leader alongside other senior girls, of the Samoan group.

For most of us, this was our first time doing Polyfest, so we didn't know what to expect. To say these past six weeks were challenging is an understatement, however, with the help of the leaders, teachers and parents, we managed to make something out of nothing. Without them, this group wouldn't have been possible.

I had my fair share of ups and downs being part of this group, but I can definitely say I've enjoyed this experience and have learnt a lot about my culture. Being on the Polyfest stage and performing gave me the most nerve wracking yet rewarding feeling.

I am so proud of our group and what we managed to do in a short amount of time. Our goal is that the Samoan group here at Roskill will compete next year to the same high standard as this year!

Fa'afetai lava.

## Samoan Speech Winners



On the 21st of March, MRGS Samoan language students gathered at Polyfest to compete in the annual speech competition. This prestigious competition showcases the importance of Gagana Samoa.

Congratulations to **Halle Kaufusi** (left) who won the Year 10 Samoan speeches and **Juliet Koonwaiyou** (right) who placed second for the Year 13 impromptu Samoan speeches.

A special mention to Vavega Tuiutulua, a Year 12 student who delivered a fantastic speech about pursuing the Samoan language and maintaining it for us to enjoy.





# Polyfest 2024 - Samoan Group







## 40 Hour Famine Fundraiser

Many students showed their support by purchasing ice blocks, with the first batch sold out in the first 10 minutes. At the end of the sale, along with students donating money, the 40 hour Famine group raised \$528.90.

The amount raised has helped World Vision to provide emergency food packets to 5289 hungry babies.

A tremendous effort from the MRGS student community!

## Careers

Lutfiyah Zaima and Jennifer Li came second in last year's Informatics Competition 4 Girls at the University of Auckland.

The NZ Informatics Competition is a series of online programming challenges that introduce students to the world of competitive programming.

As part of their achievement, they were invited to the holiday camp at the University of Canterbury.

The purpose of the camp is to train students towards representing New Zealand in the International Olympiad in Informatics.

Lutfiyah participated in the January camp while Jennifer will be attending the upcoming camp in April. We are very proud of their representation of MRGS in this scene.



## MacLean Centre participation in a Virtual Kiwichat Group

KiwiChat Groups are for AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) users to join together for a fun filled session of learning.

KiwiChat Groups are held all around the country. These sessions offer people who use assistive technology tools and strategies additional support in their journey to become competent communicators.

MacLean Centre students were engaged and showed great enthusiasm in this virtual session of sharing.

# Alumni News



Last Friday, Associate Principal, Mrs Collins and Miss Lee represented the current MRGS staff and student body at the 1950s past pupils alumni lunch.

These old classmates travelled from as far as Hong Kong and Australia to attend this reunion, excited at the opportunity to reflect on their collective experience at MRGS and how far the values they learned in school took them in life. It was a beautiful trip down memory lane with some stories of their time at the school shared along the way.

One memory that was commonly shared was the construction of the school's pool. Many shared their role in its origins, reminiscing memories of digging out the hole for the pool to steaming off bottle labels for its bottle drive fundraiser.

Although many did not personally get to enjoy the completed pool, they were happy to know that their hard work has allowed many future MRGS students to utilize the pool and create core school memories just like the ones they have.





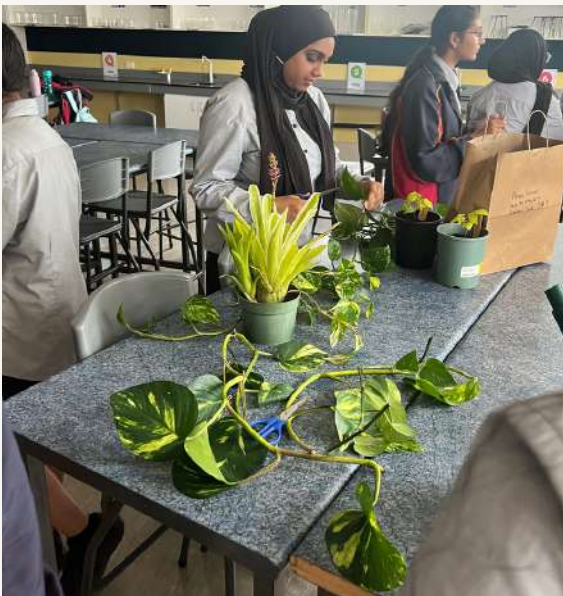
# A week at MRGS



Beautiful literacy moments going on at the MacLean Centre - Katie leading and guiding Thomas during a paired reading session.



House committee fundraisers - Cooper and Ngata Houses hosting bake sales at H Block.



A generous donation of fresh Pothos cuttings and other plants from a MRGS parent to the Plant Club.



Visitors from the Japanese Consulate brought kimonos in for the Year 12 & 13 DSM class to practice putting on and wearing.



K-pop dance group learning a new dance.



Japan Day was hosted by the visiting Fukuoka Jyoto High School students. MRGS students participated in traditional Japanese games and won prizes such as origami cranes and toys.







Mount Roskill Grammar School  
**SPORT NEWSLETTER**



**Swimming Success**

Congratulations to **Daniel Kregting** (pictured above, third from left) who took out the NZ Secondary Schools Open Water Championship at the Blue Lake in Rotorua.

He swam the 3.5km course in a time of 41 minutes and 52 seconds, winning the overall category.

David participated in a weekend filled with back to back swimming competitions at the Auckland Age Group Championships, Daniel's achievement included placing third in the 16-17 year old males 1500m on Saturday (with **Ethan Stocks** of MRGS coming second) to winning the 200m Butterfly event for 16-17 year olds on Sunday.

An outstanding effort from Daniel!

**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. 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 T1 - Weekly Sports Draw & Results](#)



## Sporting Successes (cont.)



### Girls Cricket Summer Tournament

During Summer Tournament week last week our girls cricket team took part in the Division 2 development tournament.

The girls had great experience, getting a taste of participating in a cricket tournament with back to back T20 games across the three days.

The team had games against Diocesan, Selwyn, Onehunga, and St Mary's, finishing the tournament in fourth place.

Big thanks to Mr Shiers and Emily Oram for looking after this team throughout the season and tournament.

### Senior Volleyball Championships

During Week 7 we had both our Senior Boys and Senior Girls Volleyball teams competing in the Auckland Championships, a three day tournament at Bruce Pulman Arena.

The Senior Girls team competed really well finishing in 3rd place in the competitive division 2 while the Senior Boys team also competed really well with some close losses, finishing 3rd in division 3.

Big thanks to Senior Coaches Esta, Mele and Tausisi for giving up your time to coach and support these teams throughout the tournament and season.



Congratulations to **Ankush Kulkarni** who recently travelled to Sydney with an Auckland Under 16/17 Boys Hockey Team playing in a number of fixtures against New South Wales sides. A great pre-season tournament for the Auckland players!



## Sporting Successes (cont.)

**Taylor Bower** and **Tristan Duncan-Sutherland** competed in the North Island Mountain Biking championships in Rotorua. The boys competed in the Cross Country event putting in a big effort on a tough course.

Any students wishing to get involved in Mountain Biking can contact the sports department. We have our own Mountain Bike Club supported by some amazing parents!



Over the weekend, Year 10 student Taylor Bower took part in the NZ Secondary Schools Canoe Slalom Championships in the Tarawera River in Kawerau.

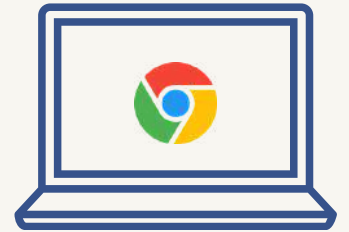
Taylor has been practicing his trade at Vector Wero Park in Manukau with this championship being the first time on a natural river.

Taylor learnt a lot from this experience and had an awesome time in the rapids!

## 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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