



Mount Roskill Grammar School  
**NEWSLETTER**



CHANGE HAPPENS

# One helping hand at a time



## A fortnight of fundraising

The Roskill Way and our values were demonstrated in the various fundraisers hosted at our kura.



## From our Principal

Kia ora koutou

Teacher Only Day on Monday 20 May was an opportunity for staff in school to spend time implementing the new NCEA Level 1 requirements. With new standards in each subject, there is a lot of work to do to ensure that our Year 11 students are well prepared.

The other change this year is the inclusion of the new Numeracy and Literacy co-requisites. During Week 5 (27 May - 30 May) students from Years 10 to 13 will be completing these assessments. All students who are involved have been emailed with the details.

Congratulations and thank you to all those who gave blood on Friday 17 May. There were a total of 74 donations made which will make a difference to 222 Kiwi's lives.

We also celebrated Pink Shirt Day on Friday 17 May. In general, Mount Roskill Grammar School is a very welcoming and inclusive environment. Pink Shirt Day this year was a reminder for us all to work hard to keep this.

Our values of Manaakitanga, Tūmanakotanga and Whanaungatanga are strong in our school. These values allow us to see the right way of doing things and to call out behaviours that breach these values.

Bullying and harassment are never acceptable in our school and it is all of our responsibility to ensure that we have a safe and inclusive environment.

One group of students who take a leading role in this are our Peer Mediators. This term, 53 Year 11 and 12 students were trained by the Peace Foundation to resolve conflict in a peaceful and compassionate way, maintaining the dignity of all participants. We are proud at MRGS to have the largest Peer-Mediation set up in New Zealand.

Ngā manaakitanga

*Tom Webb*

Tumuaki | Principal



# A Message from the School Board

Kia ora koutou

Our kura held its annual Open Day on May 23, a celebration of everything the school has to offer.

I am always proud of the opportunities we offer as a school, but an occasion such as these are a wonderful way of showing the Roskill Way.

We have seen those values in action in many ways this week. It was fantastic to see students and staff supporting Pink Shirt Day and Blood Day on Friday 17 May.

Participating in Pink Shirt Day is an important sign of our commitment to the effort to end bullying and to make all spaces in our kura safe and inclusive.

Our staff also held a pink ribbon breakfast and students hosted bake sales to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation. What a way to support our tauira in becoming active and responsible citizens.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to making our kura a place where students can grow and learn in a positive atmosphere. Let's continue to work together to uphold demonstrate these values in everything we do.

Ngā mihi mahana

*Marjet Pot*  
 Presiding Member  
 School Board




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## Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite



On Tuesday (28/5), Wednesday (29/5), and Thursday (30/5) of Week 5, senior students who do not have level 1 Numeracy and/or Literacy, including Year 11s who did not pass one or more of the Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite assessments in Year 10, will have the opportunity to sit the Literacy and Numeracy assessments.

There are three assessments that are offered - Numeracy, Reading, and Writing. Students will only sit the assessments that are relevant to them. All students who have been entered to sit these assessments have been emailed the venue they will sit the assessment/s in.

Please be advised that we have changed the times and venues of some of the Literacy and Numeracy assessments.

**Students need to check their school emails for updates.**

Students who have time and venue changes for these assessments were emailed on Thursday May 23 with the new information for these assessments.



# Phone use

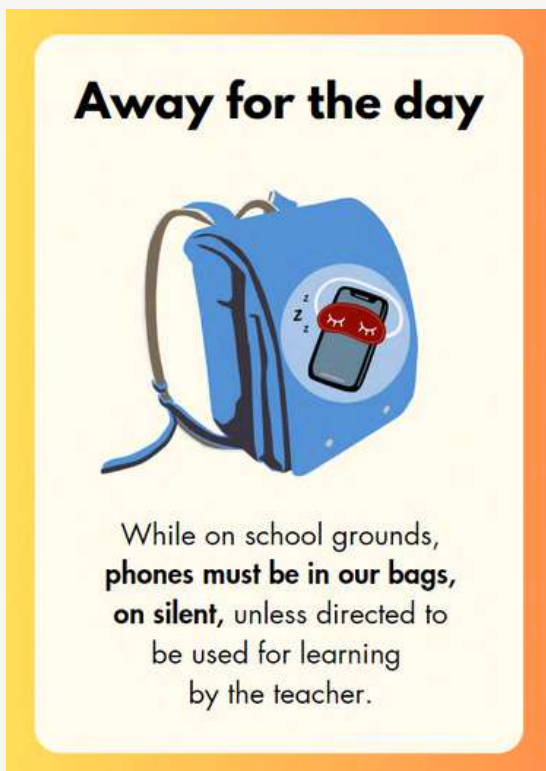
Students have done a fantastic job of adhering to the “Away for the Day” expectations which came into force at the start of Term 2.

“Away for the Day” also includes headphones and earphones as well, therefore on school grounds, these must be in students’ bags.

We are grateful for our students' support of this government initiative, and we will continue to uphold this expectation with reminders to students.

MRGS should be very proud of how we have gone about this change.

A friendly reminder that if any parent or caregiver urgently needs to get a hold of their child during school time, please contact the administration team at 09 621 0050 (ext 0).



# Attendance

Our current attendance percentage is **81%**.

Punctuality is a critical life skill. Unfortunately, lateness is a concern for us as a school, both at the start of the day, and between lessons. It is possible to move between classes all over the school, within 4 minutes.

Every minute of learning counts, and every time someone is late to a lesson it is disruptive to the other students and teachers.

It is critically important for students to demonstrate punctuality at all times.

Key Dates	
Mon 27th - Fri 31st May	<b>Samoa Language Week</b>
Tues 28th - Fri 31st May	<b>Senior Literacy &amp; Numeracy Tests</b>
Wed 29th - Fri 31st May	<b>Jazz Band Camp</b>
Mon 3rd June	<b>King’s Birthday - School Closed</b>
Sat 8th June	<b>MRGS School Ball</b>
Wed 19th - Fri 21st June	<b>Dance Showcase</b>
Thurs 20th June	<b>Mentoring 2</b>
Thurs 27th - Fri 28th June	<b>Strings Orchestra Camp</b>
Fri 28th June	<b>Matariki - School Closed</b>
Thurs 4th July	<b>MRGS Careers Expo</b>
Fri 5th July	<b>End of Term 2</b>



# MRGS Ball - Saturday 8 June

The 2024 MRGS Ball will be held on **Saturday 8 June** at **Alexandra Park, Greenlane.**

This year's ball theme is *Masquerade: The Whisper of the Veiled Ball*. Please bring your own mask.

Tickets are \$130 and can be bought at Accounts until 31 May.

If you want to take an outside partner, please collect a form from Accounts and get it signed by your partner and Mr Cornes before purchasing tickets.

**Any outstanding school fees must be paid first and you must have an acceptable level of attendance.**



## Open Day

MRGS welcomed prospective students and whānau into their school grounds for its annual Open Day on Thursday 23 May.

Our enthusiastic guides did an amazing job of showing parents our departments and facilities.

They gave parents a taste of the different areas where their child could learn and thrive.

### **Enrolments for 2025 are now open.**

Online applications can be made [here](#) or forms can be picked up at the school's office.

Application forms have also been delivered to intermediate schools.

**Out of zone enrolments must be submitted by 4pm, Wednesday 4 September.**



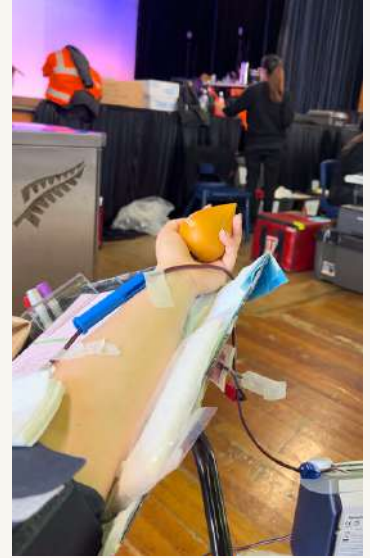
## Blood Day hosted by Rutherford House

We had a very successful Blood Day on Friday 17th of May.

At the end of the day, NZ Blood Service collected **74 units of blood** which will go on to **make a difference in 222 lives**.

It was a great way for MRGS students to demonstrate our school values of whanaugatanga by choosing to become a blood donor and helping others in need.

Thank you to Mr Carter for the smooth running of this event.



## Debating

The MRGS Debating Phoenixes have been achieving some fantastic results this season.

May 15th was a significant moment in Roskill Debating history because for the 1st time in 7 years of being in the Premier Advanced Grade, they won against Auckland Grammar School!

Amazing work from **Stella Boyd, Ella Smith and Asma Ibrahim** (all pictured on the left)!

## Auckland Writers' Festival

On 16th of May, our future writers headed to Aotea Square to attend the annual Auckland Writers Festival.

Two highlight young adult writers were Steph Matuka, who wrote *Flight of the Fantail*, and Elizabeth Acevedo, who is a Spoken Word poet and who wrote *PoetX*.

Steph recommended starting a career as a Romance genre author as there are many supporting resources to help you refine your craft. Elizabeth told us that she fell into writing because she was frustrated by reading books that didn't reflect her life.

They both encouraged everyone who has an interest in writing to give it a go and to remain persistent. It was a great day for those who love words!



# Pink Shirt Day



# 2024 Education Perfect Languages Championships



*Pictured left to right: Leo Zhang, Annie Ma, Candy Qiu, Yaying Huang*

In Term 2, Mount Roskill Grammar School competed in the 2024 Education Perfect Global Languages Championships. This is part of the Education Perfect World Series.

Over 2,000 schools worldwide competed. **MRGS came 5th in NZ and 15th in the World.** This represented many hours learning languages and revising material in a fun way.

There were a large number of impressive results:

- **75 MRGS pupils gaining awards**
- **More than 435,000 questions answered by MRGS Languages pupils**

The very top students in this competition gained an ELITE Award & Badge because they gained over 10,000 points. They were in the top 0.2% of all competitors.

**Annie Ma** (1st in MRGS), **Candy Qiu**, **Christina Ah Ken** and **Catherine Zhao** gained an Elite Award & Badge (10,000+ points). Their dedication led to gaining outstanding results worldwide.

**Afheid Halim**, **Yaying Huang**, **Michelle Naidu**, **Shreeya Prabhu** and **Divya Prasad** gained an Emerald Award (5,000+ points).

**Manha Ahmed**, **Ben Epream**, **Jeff Li**, **Amberlyn Stevenson**, **Fynaully Tuiutuloa**, **Leo Zhang** and **Terry Zhou** gained a GOLD Award (3,000+ points).

Other special student & school achievements: **Annie Mao** and **Candy Qiu** were placed 2nd & 3rd worldwide for Chinese.

**Fynaully Tuiutuloa** and **Divya Prasad** were among the top 10 pupils worldwide in Māori.

Language placements in the competition:  
 Samoan = MRGS was 2nd in the world  
 Chinese = MRGS was 5th in the world  
 Māori = MRGS was 5th in the world  
 Japanese = MRGS was 7th in NZ  
 French = MRGS was 8th in NZ

MRGS also gained:

5 Silver Awards (2,000+ points), 27 Bronze Awards (1,000+ points) and 26 Credit Awards (500+ points).

Well done on all the AMAZING results – LEARN, COMPETE, WIN!

Thank you Mr McAlpine for all your support and guidance!



# Te Kete Rokiroki a Whakaotiranga haerenga ki Te Pane o Mataoho – Mangere Mountain Trip

As an extension of the maara kūmara Project 'Te Kete Rokiroki a Whakaotiranga', a large group of our taura including taura teina from MRI and MRPS visited Te Pane o Mataoho/Mangere Mountain Education Centre.

We attend workshops focused on rongoa Māori (traditional medicine), mahi maara (traditional horticulture) including a hīkoi to learn about the history, and the connections of this important place for mana whenua.

On this beautiful day, 55 students spent time up the Maunga where we were taught about the early settlement, food production/storage and pūrākau shared about the origins of the naming of Mangere Mountain.



We learnt about rau kūmara or storage houses which were still evident at the summit.

It was a privilege for our rangatahi and kaiako to learn about mātauranga Māori and we were encouraged to share what we learnt with our whānau and community.

A big mihi to our kaiārahi from Te Pane o Mataoho Te Aorangi and Kimiora for their sharing of knowledge, to Mr Syme who has helped drive this kaupapa and our kaiako for supporting on the day Whaea Lee, Whaea Jackie, Whaea Monique, Whaea Felina and Mr McGibbon.

## Careers

We're excited to announce that MRGS will be hosting their first **Careers Expo 2024 day at the school hall on Thursday 4th of July**. This is an exciting event where students get to meet with employers and tertiary providers to find out more about the career pathways available to them.

This event caters to all students from Year 9 – 13 during school hours and parents are also welcome to attend after school.

We encourage all our young adults to take advantage of this event for meaningful engagement and networking between students, educators, and industry professionals.

There is an opportunity for the community to participate. If you have a career you would like to speak about to students, please email [careersdepartment@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:careersdepartment@mrgs.school.nz) to register.

# Support Staff Day

Support Staff Day is a time to recognize the invaluable contributions of those who keep our organizations running smoothly behind the scenes. They are an integral part MRGS and we would not be able to run it without them. Pictured here are some of our lovely support staff!



## Alumni News



**Melanie Spence** (pictured second from right) was an ex MRGS Prefect in 2021.

She is currently training to be a scuba instructor with Dive HQ Auckland.

Melanie started her course with PADI (Professional Association of Scuba Instructors) training, learning how to dive, and is now completing her PADI Rescue Diver training. She will go on to finish the professional part of the course that teaches her how to be a Divemaster and then an instructor.

Melanie is diligent, reliable, and has a bright future ahead of her in the Dive Industry. Once she is qualified, she hopes to work across NZ and then travel overseas.

Dive HQ Auckland's next enrolment starts August 2024 and then Feb 2025. The course is 45 weeks long, full Time, four days a week. It is student loan and fees free eligible.

We welcome and families and students to contact us if they want to find out more by emailing - [careers@divehqauckland.co.nz](mailto:careers@divehqauckland.co.nz) or call Michael O'Loughlin 02102508990





Mount Roskill Grammar School

# SPORT NEWSLETTER



## Winter Sport School Sock Requirements



Students who are in Football, Hockey and Rugby Teams are **required to wear MRGS Sports Socks** for all of their games. These can be purchased and picked up from the Accounts Office for \$15 a pair.

## 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 and Hockey.

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 - [emma.calcutt@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:emma.calcutt@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](#)

# Winter Sports

It has been a fantastic few weeks of winter sports, with lots of action and sportsmanship.

A huge congratulations to all teams who have competed, and a particular thanks to our coaches, managers and volunteers who are supporting our teams throughout the season.

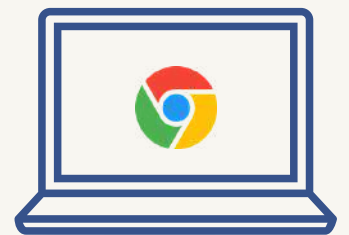


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## Student Devices

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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