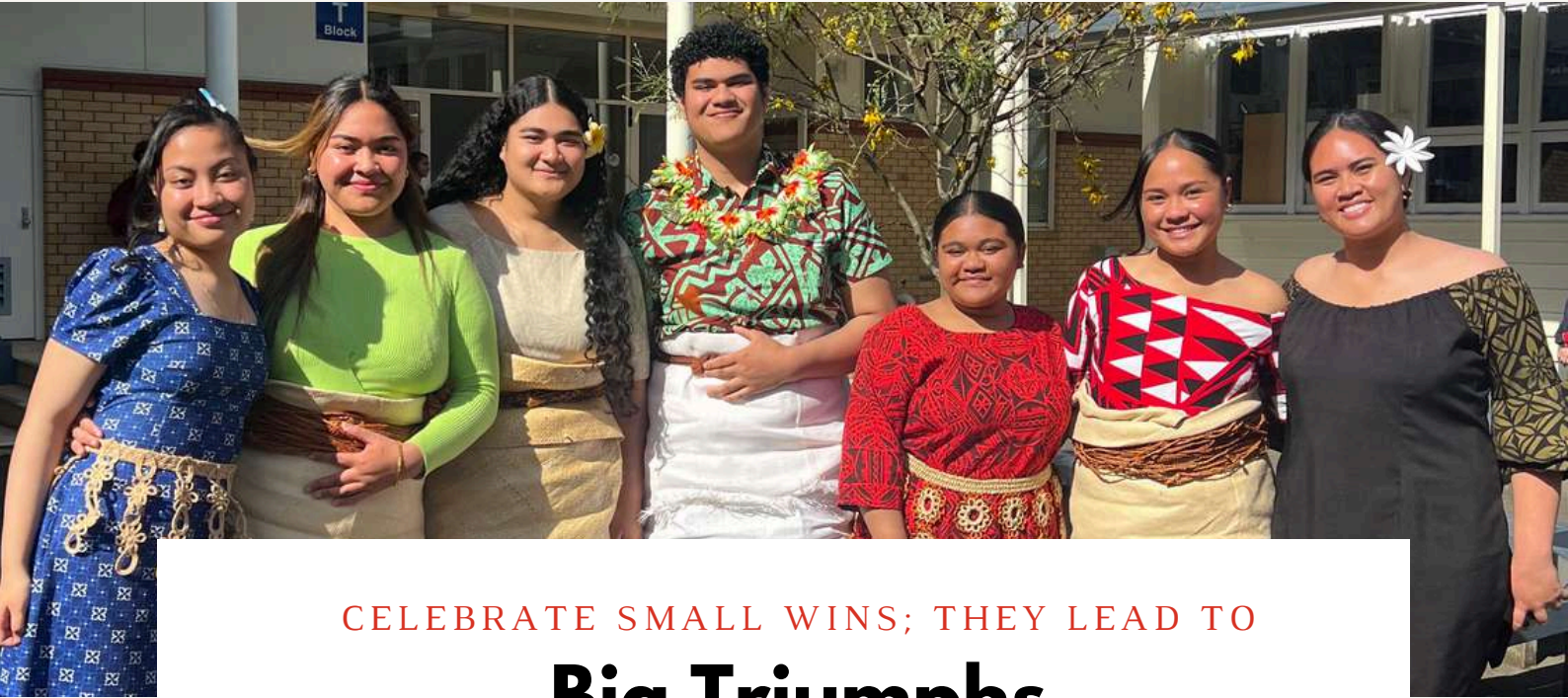




Mount Roskill Grammar School
NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATE SMALL WINS; THEY LEAD TO

Big Triumphs



MRGS String Orchestra



KBB Music Festival Success

MRGS Jazz Band and Concert Band both received Bronze awards. String Orchestra received a Commended award.



From our Principal

Kia ora koutou

Last week we celebrated Tongan Language Week. The theme for the week was: 'E tu'uloa 'a e lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá - The Tongan Language will be sustainable when used at home, church and in the wider community.

In his assembly speech one of our prefects, Shadrach Palenapa, challenged us to include our school in this theme and I am proud to say that we have students studying Tongan Language.

With Term 3 Senior Exams just over a week away, it is important to think about why we have these exams and what students can get from them.

Practicing for externals is an important part of the preparation and when you can sit similar exams in the same conditions and timing as the external they provide an excellent opportunity to get exam technique right before the real thing.

If something goes wrong later in the year and students are not able to sit the external exam, these exams will also provide a derived grade that can be used towards the standard that has been missed.

For those students who are on a university pathway, it is important to think about how external exams prepare you for success at university. We know that students who succeed in externals are far more likely to succeed in their first year of their degree.

We have high expectations for our students in these exams and we also have high confidence that they do well. Prepare yourself well and good luck for your exams.

Ngā manaakitanga

Tom Webb

Tumuaki | Principal



A Message from the School Board

Kia ora koutou

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Student Services team, past and present. Alongside our school leadership and kaiako, they have shown exceptional commitment to the mediation services in our school.

My thanks to the Peace Foundation for their acknowledgement of our mahi, serving our taura.

For our current students heading into exams later in the term, it is a good time to reflect on your learning aspirations and what you have learnt to date.

How can you best utilise that knowledge for success? Your kaiako and whānau are your greatest advocates to help you reach your goals.

I encourage you all to make the most of the numerous homework centres available and extend my thanks to our kaiako for their commitment to this additional curriculum support.

Ngā mihi mahana

Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board



**2025
OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENTS**

DUE SEPTEMBER 4, 4PM

MRGS 2025 Out-of-Zone enrolments are due next Wednesday, 4th of September at 4pm!

Any enrolments received after this date **will not** be included in the ballot and will go on a waiting list.

If you would like to make an Out-of-Zone application, you can do this online on our website [here](#) or you can pick up a paper copy from the MRGS reception.

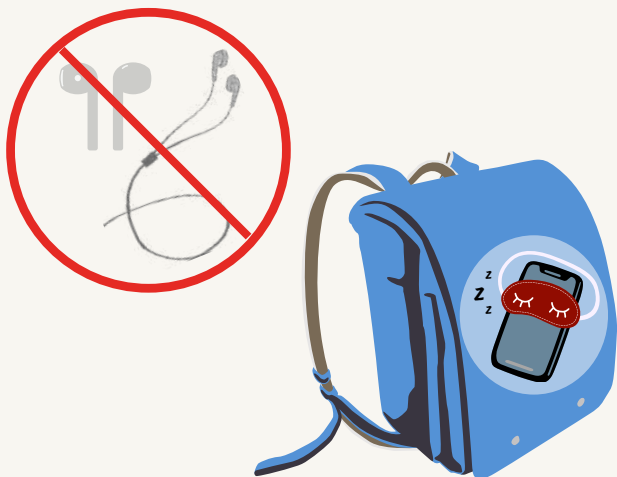
Phones & Earphones

As we have moved through this term, we have noticed an increase in the visibility of phones and ear phones during break times.

It is a requirement that phones and earphones are “away for the day”, once students are onsite and are not to be visible.

If students are seen with their phones or earphones out during break times, they are being reminded to put away. Some students who are continuously having these items visible will be having them confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.

Please support us at home by having a conversation with your child about keeping their phones away for the duration of the school day.



Change in Timings

Please note that start times for **Wednesday 11th and 18th of September are at 9am** instead of the usual 9.20am.

This change is to accommodate the senior exam schedule.

Attendance

Our current attendance percentage is **80.3%**.

It’s fantastic that our attendance is still above 80% as a school. It’s really important that students are aware of their own attendance, which they can view each week in the email sent to their student emails.

Parents/Caregivers also receive this email, and can view their child’s attendance live each day via the Kamar Portal.

Our expectation is that students are at school 90% or more of the time, as this supports their learning and achievement.

Key Dates

Mon 12th August - Fri 20th Sept	Mobile Dental Unit on site
Mon 2nd - Fri 6th September	Winter Tournament Week
Wed 4th September	Junior Report Evening
Wed 4th - Thurs 5th September	Gangster’s Paradise Level 1 Drama Production
Mon 9th - 20th September	Senior Exams
Wed 11th & 18th September	Day starts at 9am
Mon 16th - Fri 20th September	Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week)
Wed 25th September	Junior Progress Reports are distributed
Fri 27th September	End of Term 3

KBB Music Festival

The MRGS Jazz Band, Concert Band, and String Orchestra took part in the KBB Music Festival at Parnell's Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Congratulations to all three groups for such outstanding results!

The Jazz Band and Concert Band each received Bronze awards, while the String Orchestra received a Commended award.

There was also a special moment when two of our students, **Martia Adato** and **Sabrina Kung**, performed as part of the KBB Honours Orchestra, conducted by Vincent Hardaker.

Thank you to Nicola Haddock, Liz Keall, and Helen Jenkins for everything they have done to help our students achieve the level of professionalism that has been nurtured.



MRGS Concert Band



MRGS Jazz Band



MRGS String Orchestra



Cross Campus Concert

In an exciting return for the first time in seven years, the Campus Concert was hosted by MRGS on August 22nd.

This was a stellar evening of entertainment showcasing musicians from the primary, intermediate and grammar schools. There were many musical highlights, including our very own Stage and Jazz Bands, with some very entertaining items from MRPS and MRIS.

Many thanks to all the fabulous performers, our top-notch sound and lighting team and Music staff from all schools.



Year 13 Camp

Next year, we will be hosting the Year 13 Camp at the Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre. This camp will run from Monday 10th till Friday 14th of February, 2025.

We need at least 180 students to register in order for the camp to go ahead! If you are interested, please head to the school accounts' office to put down a deposit and secure your spot!

Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre (MOEC) is on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf and incorporates activities such as kayaking, sailing, climbing, archery, confidence course and problem solving.

Year 13 Camp is one of the highlights on the school calendar and a final opportunity for students to experience learning in the outdoors whilst strengthening connections at the beginning of their final year at MRGS.



Meeting Paro and Wearing Yukata

On August 27th, our Year 9 Japanese class had two representatives from the Consulate General of Japan visit MRGS.

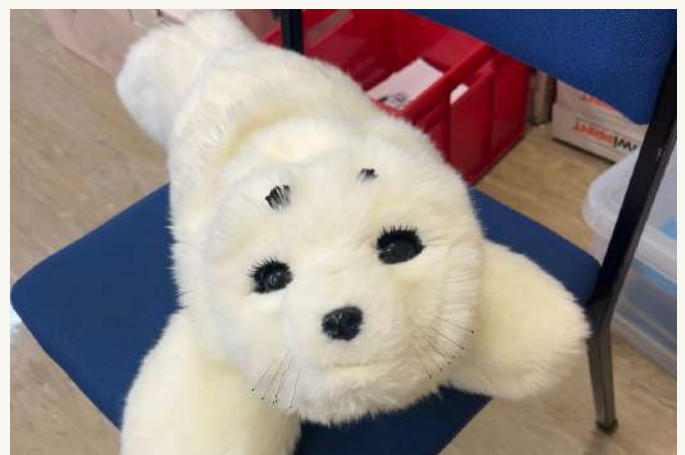
We met a robot ice seal named Paro. He made noises, shook his head and blinked his eyes.

Paro is a robot that helps people feel comfortable in hospitals, clinics, and places where pets and other animals are not allowed.

We also learned about kimonos and yukatas. At the end of the lesson, we had a chance to put on yukatas which was very fun but they are quite tricky to wear. The fabric and the designs were beautiful.

This visit was very interesting and made me want to visit Japan someday.

Written by Khadija Abdullah (Year 9)



Uike Kātoanga'i 'o e lea faka-Tonga - Tongan Language Week



30 years of Peer Mediation

At the recent annual Peace Symposium we were honoured to receive a Distinction Award for 30 years of working with the Peace Foundation.

The Peace Foundation trains our students to become Peer Mediators. We have now run a confidential Peer Mediation service for over three decades!

We are proud to receive this award.

Peacemaking skills are as relevant now as they were then: both in the context of climate and social justice.

In 1994, a Counsellor called Margaret Stanners started the collaboration. Initially 20 students a year were trained to mediate.

The underlying belief is that rangatahi are ideally positioned and thoroughly capable of developing mediation skills, and maintaining confidentiality.

When Donna Hourigan-Johnston took over 21 years ago, she grew the movement to 200 Mediators. We are without a doubt the largest Peer Mediation service in the country. We will fiercely continue on with this important work every year.



Mediators come from all walks of life, all backgrounds, all academic abilities. It is a deeply inclusive community, with one focus: activism to co-create PEACE, and lifting the dignity for all: manaakitanga.

All Year 11 and 12 students are invited to apply during the Term 1 intake period. You can get an application form from Student Services, or email - Tara.English@mr.gs.school.nz

Spoken Word Semi Finals

On Saturday, 18th of August, the Spoken Word team competed in the Word - the Frontline semi-finals. The judges praised the MRGS team, noting that their poems were among their favorites, making it a close competition.

Pradima Pitta, Vicky Zhang, and Srinithya Bobbili presented a powerful poem on the struggles of the diaspora, poignantly captured in the lines, "No space in the sentence to put in our word // So we don't make a sound at all."

Tanishka Desai's performance, a heartfelt letter to love, received special recognition. And, Srinithya and Pradima's duo explored the challenges of being limited by gender, with the striking line, "God, please save me from the disease known as femininity."

Overall, the team performed with professionalism and confidence, and they should be very proud of their achievements.



PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Drama Showcase

On August 8th, the Level 2 and 3 Drama students performed for friends and family the work that they have been doing for the past few months; the students put on an amazing show filled with laughs and touching moments.

The Level 2 whānau performed extracts from the play "The Mall" by NZ comedian Thomas Sainsbury, as well as original scenes that linked into the themes of the play. In the second half, the Level 3 class tackled Epic Theatre that looked at serious political topics from gun use to casual sexism in today's society.

Thank you to all who attended this great show - I am immensely proud of the work our senior students have done and looked forward to what comes next.

Written by Jack Hanrahan - Drama Kaiako



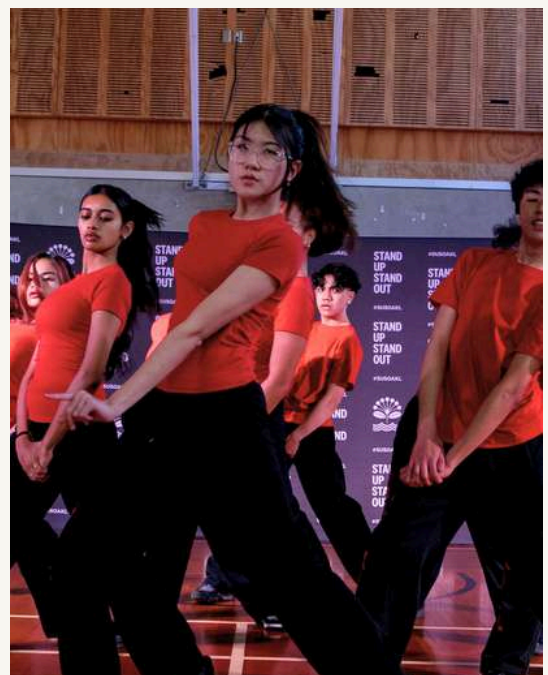
Roskill Street Dance Crew

On August 20th 2024, The Roskill Street Dance Crew competed in a high school dance competition called Stand Up Stand Out AKL.

Every Friday after school, we rehearsed and learnt dance sets created by students **Jaelin Le La'ulu** and **Aahana Mohan** which included styles like Hip-hop, Afro and Waacking. Although we didn't make the top five, we still had so much fun connecting with different schools around Auckland.

We are very grateful for our teachers Miss Thompson and Mr Leung for helping us along the way!

Written by Aahana Mohan (Year 11)



CAREERS NEWS

Defence Force Visit

We are happy to announce that representatives from the Defence Force will be visiting MRGS on **Monday 2nd of September in the Learning Hub at 10:30am.**

This is a fantastic opportunity for students interested in exploring career options in the military. Students will have the chance to learn more about the various roles available, the training involved, and the benefits of a career in the Defence Force.



University Accommodation Applications



For those planning to attend university next year, remember that applications for university accommodation are currently open.

Securing housing early can help ensure you have a comfortable living situation while you study. These applications will **close on September 30th** for all New Zealand universities.

Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

The applications for AUT scholarships will close on the 1st of September, while Victoria University scholarships will close on the 2nd of September.

If you haven't already, now is the time to gather all necessary documents and submit your applications to make the most of these opportunities.



Chess Tournament

The Central Auckland Secondary Interschools Chess tournament was held on Thursday 15th August.

11 teams participated, three of which were MRGS. Our A team came 4th.

Sourav Dhungel and **Pratyush Khatiwada** held up their stellar record of being the best players gaining 4/6 points each.

A week at MRGS



Senior Media Studies students went to see a new local feature film “We Were Dangerous” at the New Zealand International Film Festival.

Year 13 Geography students at Muriwai. They are learning about coastal processes.



Year 9 and 10 students represented MRGS at the annual Auckland Mathex Competition.



Year 12 & 13 students visited the law firm Meredith Connell for an opportunity to get an insight into a career as a lawyer.



MacLean Centre students held their own Olympic Games Opening Ceremony spending the afternoon playing sports.



Senior Girls Basketball Team doing a bake sale to raise funds for the upcoming Winter Tournament Week.





Mount Roskill Grammar School

SPORT NEWSLETTER



Curling Success

Congratulations to our curlers who competed in Dunedin at the Junior Nationals with EGGS & Massey High.

A silver medal for **Christina Xu** and **Erica Lao's** team (unbeaten run until the final!); bronze medal for **Abraham Chanwong, Cyrus Wei, Daniel Yang** and alumni Oscar; 4th for **Micky Ng** and **Maia Collins'** team.

Outstanding results representing Auckland against teams with access to specialist curling ice and practice times. Super proud as also played against a number of national junior reps!

Huge thanks to alumni staff member and coach Eleanor, Benjamin and to the Auckland Curling exec for your support of the YDP (Youth Development Programme).

Term 4 Summer Sports - Registrations Now Open

Please click [HERE](#) for details and to register for Term 4 summer sports. Registrations close on Monday 19th of September. For any questions, contact: sports.department@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.

Senior School Sports Awards

We are looking forward to celebrating the efforts and successes of our students this year at our annual senior school sports awards on **Wednesday September 25th**. Full details to follow.



Winter Tournaments 2024

Good luck to all of our students competing next week in our winter tournaments!

The following teams will be participating this year:

MRGS Team	Dates	Location
Basketball Junior Boys	Sat 31st August - Tues 3rd September	Bruce Pulman Arena, Auckland
Football Senior Boys	Mon 2nd - Fri 6th September	Tikipunga Sports Park, Whangarei
Football Senior Girls	Mon 2nd - Fri 6th September	Waikaraka Park, Auckland
Hockey Senior Boys Hockey Senior Girls	Mon 2nd - Fri 6th September	Lloyd Elsmore Park, Auckland
Curling	Mon 2nd - Fri 6th September	Paradice, Auckland
Premier Girls Netball	Mon 2nd - Fri 6th September	Waitakere Netball Courts, Auckland
Basketball Premier Boys Basketball Senior Girls	Wed 4th - Sat 7th September	Bruce Pulman Park

Hockey Success

MRGS 1st XI Hockey Boys Team received a bronze award at the end of the A1 Boys 2024 Hockey season.

The boys were down 0-1 at halftime against MAGS and then evened it up 1-1, so it went to penalty shootouts and the boys won 3-1.

They had a fantastic season, winning 11 out of their 14 games this season, and we can't wait to see how they do at Tournament Week.

A massive thank you to Jimmy Grant and Jo Thomson for all the hard work you have put into the team this season.



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYMARKET

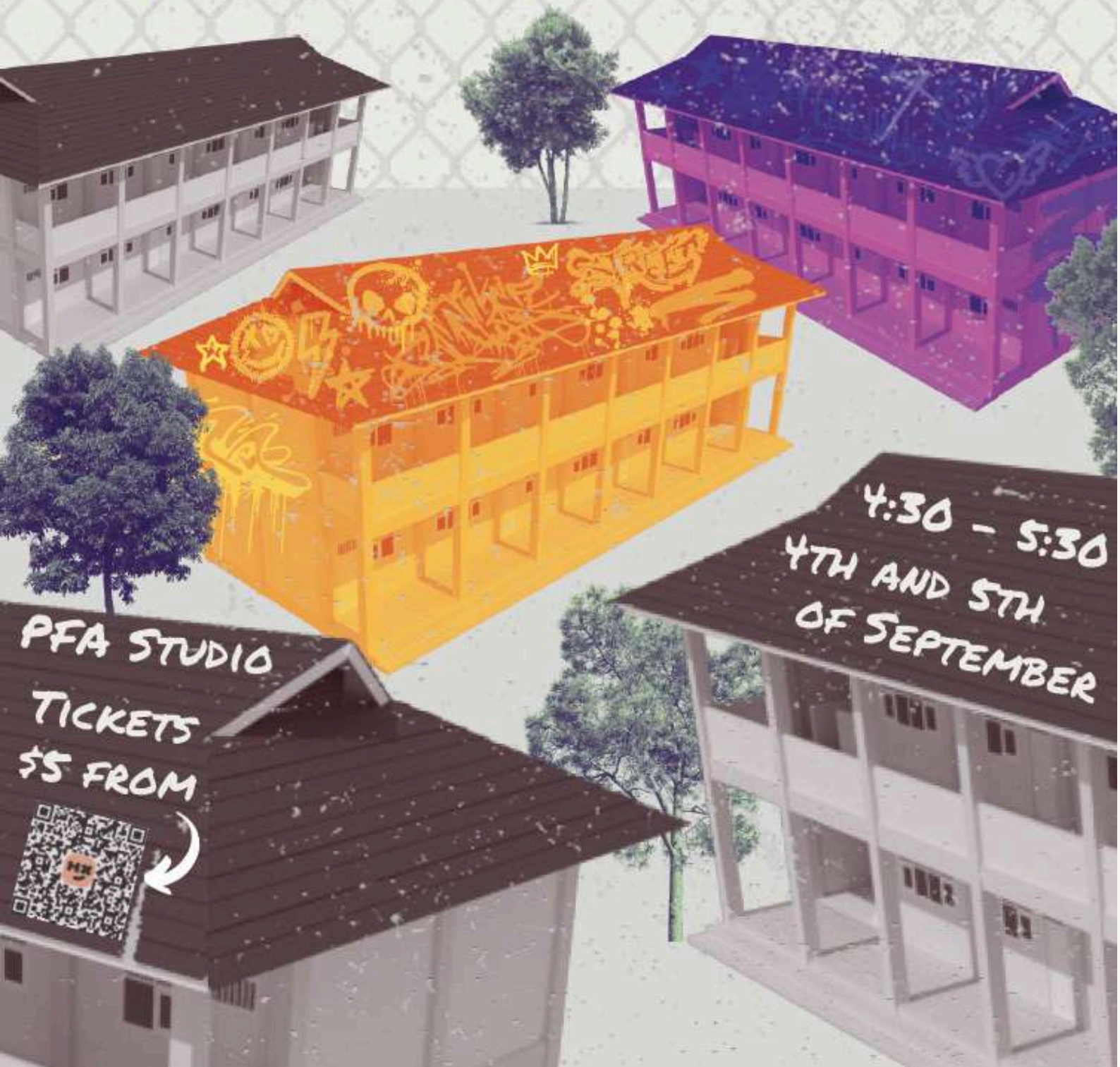
SCENES FROM

GANGSTER'S PARADISE

WRITTEN BY LEKI JACKSON-BOURKE

STARRING LEVEL 1 DRAMA

AND STUDENTS FROM YEAR 10 DANCE AND DRAMA



PFA STUDIO

TICKETS
\$5 FROM



4:30 - 5:30
4TH AND 5TH
OF SEPTEMBER