



Mount Roskill Grammar School
NEWSLETTER



SETTLING INTO

A year of successful learning



Outstanding Scholarship

Frances Damu

Received an Outstanding Scholarship and
Top Scholar Award for Dance.
She is the top dance student in New Zealand.



From our Principal

Kia ora koutou,

On Thursday 20 February we held our annual Excellence awards where we celebrated the achievement of students who achieved an excellence endorsement or an NCEA scholarship last year. To gain an excellence endorsement at NCEA students need to achieve at least 50 excellence credits across all of their subjects and NCEA scholarships are achieved through an extra exam at the end of the year.

Congratulations to all of the students who achieved highly in 2024. It was great to see students who left us last year and are starting on their journey to university or elsewhere. I want to thank MRGS alumni Kaveendra Krishna who was our guest speaker on the night and inspired our current students with his journey since leaving MRGS.

We had our first Board meeting of the year on Monday 24 February. Our School Board are representatives of the community who are passionate about our school and are responsible for the governance of the school. They set the strategic direction and oversee the areas like property and finance.

At this meeting, Marjet Pot stood down as Presiding Member. Marjet has been Board Chair or Presiding Member since 2006 and has led the Board over that 20 year period.

I want to acknowledge Marjet for her years of service and leadership for our school and her expertise in governing the school for the best interests of our students. She has given me invaluable support in my first year as principal.

Our new Presiding Member is Afioga Toleafoa Leatua Tupa'i-Lavea. Leatua has been on the Board since 2022 and I am looking forward to working more closely with him as he takes up this new role.

This year is also the year for our triannual Board elections so please get in touch if you are interested in contributing to the Board.

Ngā manaakitanga

Tom Webb
Tumuaki | Principal



A Message from the School Board

Kia ora koutou,

The time has come for me to step down as Presiding Member / Chairperson of MRGS Board. I was asked to join the Board in 2004 and became the Board chairperson in 2006.

It has been an absolute privilege to be part of this school community and to lead the Board. During my time there has been lots of change. Change in buildings, Ministry of Education, Education Review Office, staff, curriculum, assessment standards and national qualifications.

What stands out most for me and what has never changed is the enthusiasm and commitment of all kaimahi. Their dedication to the taura and whānau of this community both in and out of the classroom is inspiring.

The passion for the kura is evident in the Board members whom I have worked with over the years. They have given their expertise to govern the kura. Our role is mostly invisible to the community and most people don't know the amount of mahi which goes on behind the scenes.

Being the Board Chairperson is not a role one can do by themselves and is very reliant on having strong and supportive Board members. I thank you all for that support.

I have worked with three Principals during my time on the Board - Ken Rapson, Greg Watson and Tom Webb and thank them all for their leadership.

The Senior Leadership team have been a pleasure to work with over the years. Thank you to Tului Fox who has been the Board secretary during my time.

Many people ask me why I am still on the Board and the reason is that I am one of those people who want to give back to the school community. Our three boys came to this kura and have gone on to become lifelong learners. I want all taura of whatever ability, ethnicity, gender or background to reach their heights both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

I wanted to be part of a team that leads MRGS as a decile 4 school to achieve better than all other schools. I wanted to provide a school environment that is safe and inclusive for all taura and kaimahi and I wanted it to be fun and leave them with lifelong friends and memories.

Along with the current Board members I am pleased that Afioga Toleafoa Leatua'o Tupa'i-Lavea has become Chairperson. I will remain on the Board for the duration of this Board term and will support him in his role.

Ngā mihi mahana

Marjet Pot
School Board Presiding Member



ID Cards

If you would like an ID Card, please pay \$15 to accounts by **14th March** so we can do a bulk order.

Please be aware that from Term 2 onwards the cost of an ID Card will be \$18.



NCEA Excellence Awards Evening



NCEA Excellence Awards Evening



Attendance

School attendance for Week 5: **80.4%**

In assembly this week, we shared this image on the right, and asked students to reflect on their own attendance, identify where they are at, and think about a way they can improve their attendance. This table shows the impact on learning when students miss lessons.

Each week, students and families receive an email about their child's attendance. Please discuss this with your child and support them with positive, punctual attendance.

%	Per 2 weeks	Per term	Year	Total lessons missed (hours)	Total lessons missed (per subject)
100%					
95%	½ day	2 ½ days	2 weeks	50 hours	10 (2 days)
90%	1 day	1 week	1 month	100 hours	20 hours (4 days)
80%	2 days	2 weeks	2 months	200 hours	40 hours (almost 2 weeks)
70%	3 days	3 weeks	3 months	300 hours	60 hours
50%	5 days	5 weeks	5 months	500 hours	100 (3 ½ weeks)

the Education group Ltd with Southern Cross Senior School

Key dates	
Mon 3rd - Fri 7th of March	Dental Planet Visit
Thurs 6th March	Class Photos
Mon 10th March	Senior Progress Reports distributed to families
Thurs 13th March	Mentoring Conference 1 8.30am-7.30pm
Tues 18th March	Iftar Night
Wed 26th March	Tongan Fiafia
Thurs 27th March	Junior Report Evening 4-7.30pm
Fri 28th March	Samoa Fiafia
Sat 29th March	Kapa Haka Rehearsal
Wed 2nd - Sat 5th April	Polyfest
Thurs 10th April	Mahurangi Exchange (Away)
Fri 11th April	End of Term 1

Cyber Safety

In Week 7, all Year 9 classes will participate in a Cyber Safety workshop, led by our Community Constable.

This is an opportunity for our Year 9s to learn about being safe online, where they can get support and the Harmful Digital Communications Act. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to continue to upskill themselves in a very important space.

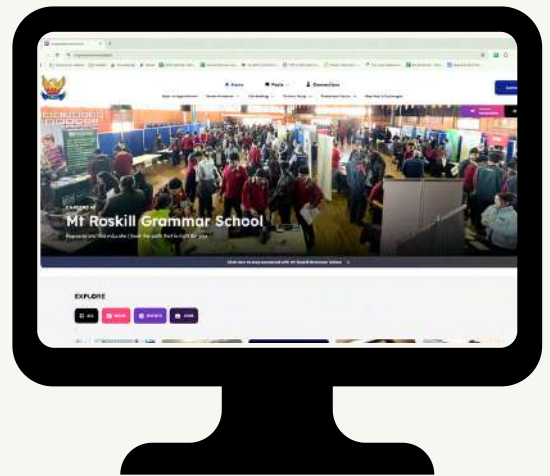
As a parent, you can access the parent resources on Netsafe, which can support you with keeping your whānau safe online, <https://netsafe.org.nz/parents-and-caregivers>




Careers

If you are looking for information about careers at MRGS, please subscribe to our careers website [here](#).

All career-related notices are posted there including information about upcoming events such as university liaison visits, webinars and open days, information on courses, apprenticeships, jobs, CV writing, tertiary scholarships and opportunities for students to get involved in career-related activities outside of school.



Students can book an appointment with the Career Advisor [here](#).



@mrgs_careers

Nailed it - Level 3 Trades Course



This year we have set up a new Level 3 trades academy course called Nailed It. The students in this course spend two days per week at NZMA learning about electrical or carpentry trades. During the three days, the students are at school, we have created an engaging program focused on getting them ready to take on apprenticeship opportunities in a trade or jobs next year.

Earlier this week, the students in this course were allowed to gain their First Aid qualification. This course was organised by First Training and covered critical skills like CPR, AED use, accident management, and more, ensuring our students are well-prepared for emergencies.

Engaging in practical scenarios, students learned how to handle various medical situations, building confidence and competence along the way. Congratulations to our future lifeguards for investing their time in such a valuable and essential skill set.

Queenstown Resort College (QRC) Visit

On Monday 24 Feb, we had Karen visit from QRC - New Zealand's leading institution for Tourism, Business, and Technology. Students enjoyed an engaging presentation about QRC's programs, including Hospitality Management, Adventure Tourism Management, and Machine Learning Fundamentals.

Against Queenstown's stunning backdrop, Karen shared insights on building a career in the vibrant tourism industry, inspiring students to explore these opportunities and highlighting QRC's unique approach to practical and theoretical learning.



Year 13 Camp - Motutapu Island



Year 13 Camp - Motutapu Island





Mount Roskill Grammar School

SPORT NEWSLETTER



Winter Sports Musters

It has been great to see so many students out and about during lunchtimes giving our Winter Sport Musters a go. These are a great opportunity to try a new sport.

No experience or equipment is required - just turn up, have fun, and see if a winter sport is right for you!

Football: Monday Lunchtime - Front Field

Netball: Monday Lunchtime - Gym 2

Basketball: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Lunchtimes - Gym 3

Girls Rugby: Monday After School - Front Field

Hockey: Wednesday Lunchtime - Hockey Turf

Girls Basketball: Friday Lunchtime - Gym 1

Cricket Success



A great start for our cricket teams so far this season. On Saturday, our 1st XI boys had a resounding victory against Howick at home, losing just one wicket.

A huge congratulations to **Sourav Dhungel** who reached his century, finishing with 108 not out.

Our new girls' squad also won convincingly in their first game of the season against Pakuranga. Our 2nd XI and junior boys were a credit to MRGS, both victorious over Botany Downs.

Tag Success

Our Senior Girls Tag Team had a fantastic day at Moire Park on Tuesday 18th February at the CNW Senior Tag Tournament.

They won 4 out of 5 games and finished 3rd in their grade. A great effort from the team, showing their determination and skill throughout the day.

A big thank you to Coach Jerome for his support and to the whānau who came along to watch.



Swimming Sports

It was a perfect, sunny day to be at the pool for this year's Swimming Sports!

The competition was fierce, with students giving it their all in the races, cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of spectators.

The highlight of the day was the special relay race, where the Prefect Team, Swimmers Team, Water Polo Team, and Staff Team went head-to-head in an exciting showdown.

A huge thank you to Ms Good for organizing and running the event, and to the Sport and Recreation students for their invaluable help in making the day a success!

Swimming Results

Senior Boys
1st Daniel Kregting
2nd Ethan Stocks

Junior Girls
1st Dana Lukmanova
2nd Riya Mheta

Senior Girls
1st Duyen Tran
2nd Maia Collins

Junior Boys
1st MJ Mariano
2nd Cullen Miller





Mount Roskill Grammar School

Devices for Learning

2025

We are a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) School

Your child needs a device for learning to bring to school. All of our courses have an online component and devices are used by students on a daily basis to access learning activities and resources. We are not able to provide learning devices for all of our students. In some instances teachers will be able to provide a small number of computers to classes when needed, but this provision cannot be relied upon to cover all device needs. Any online assessment that takes place can be supported through the School's resources.



Purchasing a Device

There are many retail options available for purchasing a device. If you go to [Datatek Pacific NZ](#) and let them know you are part of the MRGS community you can secure preferential pricing. [NZ Laptop Wholesale](#) provides affordable options on new and refurbished learning devices. Big retailers like Harvey Norman, Noel Leeming and Warehouse Stationery will also offer good deals on Chromebooks and Laptops.

Accessing a Loan Device

If you have a client relationship with Work and Income NZ, you may qualify for support from them. Email chris.dunn@mrqs.school.nz and we will send you a letter to support your application for a learning device to be supplied at very low to no cost.



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