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August 11, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Acting Headmaster

Key Dates

The importance of 'grit'

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



GRIT: 'As much as talent counts, effort counts more'.

– **Angela Duckworth**

Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

Focus this week has been on the concepts of having a growth mindset and developing grit. A growth mindset is simply believing that with practice and perseverance you can do something; learn something; master something. Grit is sticking at it, and then sticking at it some more.

At assemblies, I reminded students of when they first learned to walk or ride a bike or skateboard and of the bumps and bruises and scrapes accepted then as simply part of the learning. Back then their eye was firmly on the prize of success and the pain accepted as worth it.

When we are little we seem to accept that learning to do things takes time and practice. We accept the pain and believe it is simply a matter of sticking at it ... we show **grit** – simply trying again, persevering, pushing through the feeling that you can't – until suddenly you find that you can.

Sadly, often when it comes to learning something new in the classroom that we find hard to understand, we are much quicker to **stop** sticking at it. When others seem to understand more easily, we make excuses, we fall into the trap of saying we just don't or can't get it ...

Dr Angela Duckworth – teacher turned psychologist – became

Monday, August 14 to Thursday, August 17
Level 2 Drama production of *Count Dracula*, PAO2, 6.30pm

Tuesday, August 15 and Wednesday, August 16
Arts and Cultural Photos – schedule [here](#)

Friday, August 25 to Sunday, August 27
The Big Sing Finale, Auckland Town Hall

Monday, August 28
Winter Tournament Week begins

Sport

Photo Essays

interested in why some students were surprisingly more successful than others; why some didn't do as well as expected and others who did better.

Her findings – grit.



“Grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals. Grit is living life like it’s a marathon, not a sprint ...

there are no shortcuts to excellence ... it all takes time and longer than people imagine.”

And most importantly, “As much as talent counts, effort counts twice.”

At MAGS we call it resilience, and to grow this we need: self-belief, to take

responsibility, to persevere and to maintain our self-discipline when things get tough. Lastly, we need to maintain hope and be positive that we will get there.

School is not a sprint, it is a marathon. Together we are building the grit and resilience needed both for today and for the longer game – future success.

Enjoy your weekends.

Jo Williams
Headmaster – Acting

Our Lion Fund programme aims to provide financial support to allow every MAGS student to access the breadth of opportunities we offer at our school.

Donate to the Lion Fund now



Rugby Girls 1st XV v
Manurewa College
Click [here](#)



Netball Combined Points
Tournament
Premiers – click [here](#)
Year 10s – click [here](#)
Year 9s – click [here](#)
Boys – click [here](#)

Trials and Registrations
Click [here](#)

Fixtures and Results
Click [here](#)



Huge success at Hip Hop Worlds



Identity Dance company, run by Albertian Josh Cesan (2006-2010), was part of a dominant New Zealand effort at the HHI World Hip Hop Championship finals held last Sunday in Phoenix, Arizona.

Featuring many MAGS students, Identity Dance company had all six of the teams it took in the finals and won three silver medals in the Varsity, JV Varsity and Mini Crew sections, and a bronze in Adults.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "When they get back, please congratulate Jacob Cameron (two silver medals for Swagganauts and Yung ID), and Alecia Campbell, Billie Twigden, Harry Bannister and Hailey Martin for gaining silver with Yung ID – with Hailey and Alecia also dancing in finals and finishing 5th in Varsity with Masque.

"Year 9 student Makaia Quensell's team, Jnr ID, finished 6th in the Junior division – a major achievement for a new team.

"Please also congratulate Kyra-Leigh Massina, who was part of Lil Saintz and Saintz Mega, who made semifinals in Varsity and Megacrew divisions. Brooklyn Boyd Smith, who was part of Ambush, made semis in Adults, and Coco-Sabine Meikle's team, Fratpack, gave a fantastic performance for a first-year crew."

You can see the silver-medal-winning performances of these teams via YouTube:

[Yung ID](#)

[Swagganauts](#)

[ID3](#)

World Vision thanks MAGS



World Vision Youth Ambassador Hemi Pinfold-Whanga visited assembly today to thank MAGS students for their fundraising efforts – bringing in \$6469.43 in the 40 Hour Challenge – and to present some awards.

Hemi presented several awards to students and one to Miss Barlow, the TIC of Interact, for being an 'Outstanding Organiser'.

Our top five fundraisers – Stella Anderson (\$755.63), Adriana Hall (\$700.00), Parum Nangia (\$552.34), Olivia Bennett (\$390.00) and Isabella Caie (\$304.00) – were recognised and the school was presented with a Silver Award for the funds it raised.

An Outstanding Student Leadership Team Award was presented as was the Most Creative Fundraising Award for the 'Hype Event' at school featuring dunking and cream pies in the face that was held to raise awareness about the challenge.

Mr Pinfold-Whanga also presented MAGS with a Milestone Award to recognise the 25-year relationship with World Vision.

Healthy relationship workshops



Last week, our Year 12 cohort were delivered a programme called Loves-Me-Not. This has been developed and facilitated in schools around the country by Police who then work alongside our own MAGS trained facilitators. The programme looks at consent, respect, healthy/unhealthy relationships, cycle of abuse as well as ways in which we can be active bystanders and how we can step in and take action when needed. Assistant Principal Ms Lythe said, "We know that this programme is very worthwhile and that our students came away with an increase in knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to better navigate relationships in their lives."



Some comments from students involved in the day include:

"While relationships, consent, and bystanders have become increasingly discussed topics at school, having this dedicated session was helpful. It allowed us to gain a comprehensive understanding and gave us time to ask questions."

"Being educated in consent and knowing what you can do in those circumstances will help us protect ourselves and the people around us."

"Having a police officer explain the law was reaffirming and allowed us to get a better understanding of what abuse looks like and what our rights are regarding it. It also gave us a unique opportunity to ask questions."

"I think this programme was awesome, just to extend our knowledge on a topic and I'm grateful because I know that many aren't educated on this. Attending this Loves-Me-Not programme, I know that it's okay to say no when you aren't comfortable, always be aware and keep the people around you safe. I think that if this programme was taught more in school the levels of unhealthy relationships will decrease over time in NZ."

Albertian world champion



Congratulations to Albertian Danyon Kemp (2008-2012), who was a member of the New Zealand Elite Men's team that won the 21st Underwater Hockey World Championships on the Gold Coast of Australia at the end of July. The team won the gold medal after playing 14 games and winning every one. They only conceded four goals during the whole tournament. In the final, against France, they won 4-2.

Senior course selection for 2024

We now require students to complete their course selection online. We encourage parents to review this with their child(ren).

Course selection for 2024 is now open and should be completed by:

Wednesday 23rd August 2023, for current Year 11 & 12

Wednesday 30th August 2023, for current Year 10

You can view course information and options through SchoolPoint [here](#)

- Year 13 students for 2024 choose 5 courses
- Year 12 students for 2024 must choose English and any other 5 courses
- Year 11 students for 2024 must choose an English course, a Mathematics course, and any other 4 courses. It is strongly recommended that at least one of the 4 remaining courses is a Science subject.

For more information about senior course selection, click [here](#)

Pat Hanly Award nominations

Congratulations to Natasha Greenway and Ignacia Martinez Villela – pictured left and right respectively – who have been nominated for this year's 2023 Pat Hanly Creativity Award at Auckland Art Gallery.

Visual Arts teacher Mrs Gauntlett said, "Natasha [whose work is pictured below left] has shown outstanding creativity in both painting and design over her time at MAGS. Natasha is an arts leader, helping manage numerous clubs and activities. Natasha is currently exploring societal views on femininity in painting and illustrative tattoos and typography in Design.

"Ignacia [whose work is pictured below right] takes both Design and Painting and is consistently creating original work at a very high standard in both subjects. She displays excellent illustration and painting skills and has a great eye for composition."





Geographers go coast to coast



Year 13 Geographers went to Muriwai and Pt Chevalier on Monday and Wednesday this week.

Their mission was to investigate how coastal processes varied between Auckland's west and east coasts.

They used a range of surveying techniques and were able to see how the violent action of the sea on our west coast created an environment of erosion.

Students enjoyed their day out in the field and learnt valuable data collection skills that they will be carry into a range of tertiary study areas and careers.



Visiting artist inspires creativity



Our senior Visual Art Design classes were treated on Monday to a visit from renowned New Zealand Artist Tanja MacMillan, aka 'Misery'. Tanja, pictured at right with Zed Young, shared her journey as a creative student, her inspiration, community, painting process, brand collaborations, creepy-cute characters and artwork composition design tips. Students then designed their own Japanese Yōkai characters as a creative brain break

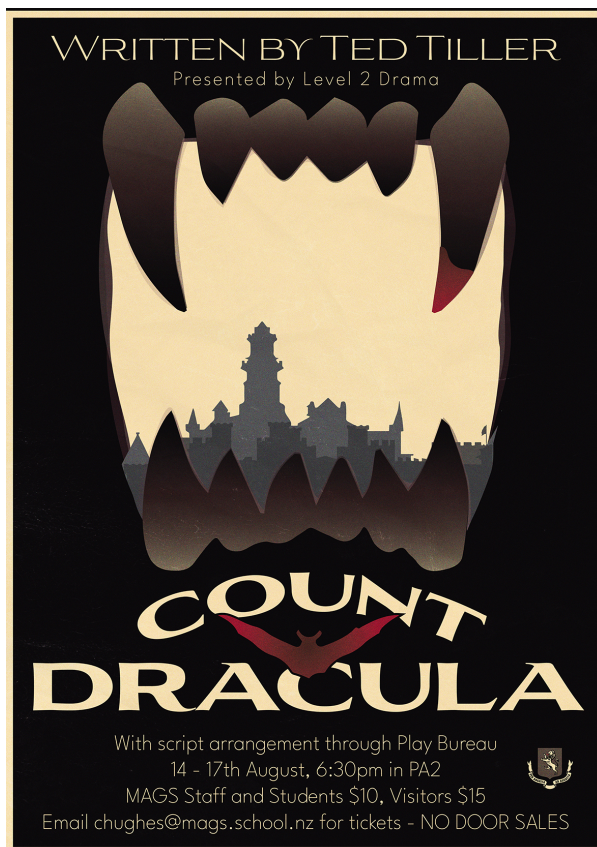
from the digital design they are used to. On Tuesday, selected Design students were also treated to a full-day workshop with Tanja.

Students were encouraged to interpret the theme of 'play' and to create freely, being inspired by Tanja's work and style. Students were guided to plan and consider composition then dabbled with spray paint, acrylics, ink and illustration techniques.

Visual Arts teacher Mrs Gauntlett said, "A big thank-you to Tanja for visiting MAGS, and a huge thank-you to last year's MAGS Art Show, whose generous donation to the Visual Arts Department made this happen."



Count Dracula tickets selling out



The last senior Drama production of the year, *Count Dracula*, runs from next Monday to Thursday with two casts performing on alternate nights.

Written by Ted Tiller and based on the infamous literary figure of Dracula, this play is set in England in the 1930s in an asylum, and is not necessarily suitable for primary-aged children.

Tickets are now available and can be booked by emailing HOD Drama Miss Hughes – chughes@mags.school.nz There are no door sales so please email Miss Hughes with how many tickets you'd like and for which night. There will be Eftpos and cash sales to pay for booked tickets on the night.

Students support City Mission



Westhaven Rotary Club, which Interact is affiliated to, holds an annual drive for Auckland City Mission, where they collect donations and cans outside local supermarkets.

TIC Interact Miss Barlow said, "Every year members of Interact volunteer to get involved. We've had several students sign up to help out this year – some multiple times.

"At one supermarket, four MAGS students ended up volunteering together alongside a Rotary Club member."

Pictured above, from left to right, are Swant Tiwari, Brandon Fernandes, Bradley Fernandes and Vanishka Das.

The final weekend for the drive is this weekend at Countdown Ponsonby.

From the Guidance Team

Why teenagers need good sleep

As many of us are aware, our students have had numerous disruptions to their schooling over the years for various unforeseen reasons.

The impact of these is significant to a number of protective factors for a person's mental wellbeing – e.g. routines and sleep.

More and more research is showing a strong link between poor sleep and issues like anxiety and depression.

Sleep is something we train our brains to do, and unhealthy sleep patterns can be trained back into good ones with a little work.

During term, it is important to make sure the sleep routines do not become late nights and



sleeping in. Later nights and sleeping in can be for the odd weekend and some of the term breaks.

It takes much longer to get a good sleep routine back than it does to create an unhealthy one, so being smart about late nights is essential. Below is a useful link about mental health and sleep and some tips for creating a healthier sleep pattern.

The adolescent brain needs sleep so if patterns do not improve with these tips it is always good to flag these issues with a GP.

For more about sleep, go to the SchoolTV website [here](#)

Twenty years ago at MAGS



From left: 2003 Prefects Danica Atkins, Katie Bowskill, Alexandra Aimer Seton, Sosefina Faumasili and Bridget Taylor.

In 2003, girls had been attending MAGS for four years, and the initial cohort from 2000 had reached what was then called Form 6 – now known as Year 12.

There were also a small number of girls in Form 7.

The contribution that the girls had made to the school led to five of their number being appointed to serve as prefects.

In 2002 the new qualification system NCEA was introduced at Level One and 2003 was the first year of NCEA Level Two and the last year of the old Bursaries examination.

Dux of the year was Derek Ngieng, who is now a GP in Queensland. The Head Prefect was Bruce John, pictured below at centre with deputies Simon Thorp, left, and David Miller. He is now head of history at Auckland Grammar School.

There were some notable sporting achievements. The Football Boys 1st XI team were national champions. The captain, Hone Fowler, was Victor Ludorum for 2003. The Football Girls 1st XI, pictured below, competing for the first time, were placed fourth in the national championships and second in the Auckland championships.

The school also fielded a girls' rugby team which played several "friendly" matches.

There were a number of drama productions but perhaps the most significant was the musical *The Mikado*. The school had not produced a musical since 1989 and under the direction of Milica Zjajic-Moon, who had come to the school in 2002, performances were held over three nights in July in the school hall.

Dale Burden came to the school as Associate Principal in 2003. In 2006 he was to begin his term as the fifth headmaster of Mount Albert Grammar School. Te Aroha Keenan was appointed Director of Girls and her arrival saw the school develop into a netball powerhouse. Three staff who began in 2003 are still on the staff – Ratinder Gill, Satish Kumar and Tony Sail. Natasha Charman, also still on the staff was the Form 3 Girls' Dean.

The school was saddened by the loss of three people who had made significant contributions to the school.

Bruce Taylor, who died in April, was a member of the Board of Trustees which oversaw the introduction of girls. His daughter, Bridget, was one of the 2000 cohort and Bruce himself became heavily involved in the arts side of the school. Lynette Summers, who died in August, was appointed as Drama teacher and was responsible for a large number of productions in her short time here. Both Lynette and Bruce are remembered each year with arts awards presented in their name.

Late in October, Gordon Lindsay Weir, known affectionately as "Dad", died at the age of 95. He was a foundation pupil of the school and in 1926 was Head Prefect, captain of the 1st XV and captain of the Cricket 1st XI. He represented New Zealand in cricket, served overseas during the war and taught at the school for 41 years. He was deputy principal from 1962 to 1966, then returned for a time as Acting Headmaster and finally as a teacher of English and French. He retired in 1978.

"Dad" Weir is commemorated at the school by the GL Weir Indoor Sports Centre.





Premier sports team lists since 1997



Greg Cave, the school's Assistant Archivist, has compiled team lists for the premier sports teams that have represented the school from 1997 to 2022.

You can see them [here](#)

If you wish to see team lists from before then, you can find them in *Tradition and Change*, the history of the school from 1922 to 1997 by Russell Stone and Neville MacMillan.

Copies of this book are still available from the school at \$25. Please email Mr Cave at gcave@mags.school.nz if you would like a copy of this book.

If you find any errors please contact Mr Cave as well.



Get your tickets for Quiz Night

MAGS QUIZ NIGHT



FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
5:30-9PM

FW GAMBLE HALL




The Village
Community Services Trust

▼ **TICKETS** ▼
\$60 early bird table of 8 (until August 11)
\$80 for table of 8 people (after August 11)
\$10 on the night per person

PIZZA SALES! 

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
VILLAGE TRUST CHARITY**

PRIZES TO BE WON 
spot prizes, best dressed first
second third

THIS IS AN ALCOHOL & VAPE FREE EVENT

 **MOUNT ALBERT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Tickets are now available at the Finance Office for the MAGS Quiz Night on next Friday, August 18.

This is always a fun occasion with prizes for the best outfits and lots of spot prizes – in amongst the quest to be named MAGS Quiz Night champion. There will be drinks and pizzas available for purchase on the night.

Proceeds from the event go to The Village Community Services Trust (led by Maliena and Sir Michael Jones), which supports Pasifika youth and families in Auckland by providing food parcels, mentoring and family support.

If you cannot be there on the night and you wish to support Quiz Night with donations or prizes, please email Acting Associate Principal John Stradwick jstradwick@mags.school.nz

Outward Bound opportunity

FULLY FUNDED OUTWARD BOUND COURSES

Outward Bound runs Adapted courses for secondary school students with disabilities.

These courses are fully funded. The only costs for the students are getting a pre-course medical done by a GP/Nurse Practitioner and getting themselves to and from Picton.

These courses are based in the Marlborough Sounds. Students build confidence, resilience, and make new friends through activities such as sailing, waka ama, ropes course, and camping.

We are now taking enrolments for the following 2024 courses:

YOUTH HORIZONS

A 6 day course for youth with an intellectual disability aged 16-21 years.
Sat 6 - Thurs 11 January 2024

LEAPS & BOUNDS ACTIVATE

A 8 day course for physically disabled youth (13-16yrs) to attend with a parent or caregiver. **Sun 7 - Sun 14 April 2024**

YOUTHACTIVATE

An 8 day course for physically disabled youth aged 16-18 years.
Sat 20 - Sat 27 April 2024

Contact us for more information

Email: adapted@outwardbound.co.nz

Freephone: 0800 688 927

www.outwardbound.co.nz/adapted



Outward Bound Adapted Courses



Out-of-zone enrolments for 2024

The Mount Albert Grammar School Board of Trustees may approve a limited number of out-of-zone enrolments for 2024.

Applications for out-of-zone enrolments for 2024 must be received by **4.00pm, Wednesday, 30 August, 2023**. Should a ballot be required for out-of-zone enrolments, this will occur on Wednesday, 6 September, 2023.

Out-of-zone applications use the same online application procedure as in-zone students. However, out-of-zone applications do not require the completion of the in-zone Statutory Declaration Form or provision of proof of residence.

More information about enrolment [here](#)

Sports Update

Combined Points Tournament winners



MAGS Netball won the Combined Points Tournament on Wednesday after three of the four teams that were entered made the finals, winning two of them. MAGS last won this tournament in 2019.

For the first time there was a Boys Grade, and MAGS took that out by winning all five games in their section – beating Alfriston, Huanui, Papakura, Tamaki and



Rosehill Blue – before registering a convincing win over Macleans College in the final.

Our Year 10s (who won the Year 9 grade last year) did it again, going through undefeated in their section and beating Hamilton Girls by three in the final.

Our Year 9 team went through undefeated in their section playoffs and got to the finals, where they lost to Carmel College.

The Premiers won all five games in their section, and met Howick College in playoffs, losing by one goal.

Director of Netball Kathy Henry said, "Losing by one was heart-breaking for the girls, however the effort and fight they put out on court was outstanding and the girls can take a lot of heart from that performance. They can go forth into their semi-finals and UNISS with confidence and knowledge they can play and compete against the best teams in the country."

You can see more photos of the teams [here](#)

Tennis champions recognised



Our Tennis champions for 2023 received their trophies and were recognised at assembly this week.

They are, back row: Luke Eagles-Smith (Senior Boys Champion), Myles Kelly (Intermediate Boys Champion & Open Mixed Doubles Champion), Marcus Lum (Open Boys Doubles Champion)

Front row: Myah Douglas (Junior Girls Champion), Kamyra Joshi (Intermediate Girls Champion), Chelsea Wijntjes (Senior Girls Champion & Open Girls Doubles Champion), Amelie Kelly (Open Girls Doubles Champion & Open Mixed Doubles Champion)

Absent: Felix Schollum (Open Boys Doubles Champion), Jimmy Hannaford-Hill O'Neil (Junior Boys Champion).

Great week for MAGS Hockey



This week has produced some excellent Hockey results for MAGS.

On Tuesday, our U15A Girls played a semi-final against St Cuthbert's, who were the top qualifier, having not lost a game all season. MAGS came in as the fourth-best team. At full time the scores were level at 1-1 but MAGS came out with the win after strokes (penalty shoot-out). Next Tuesday, they play EGGs in the final at Mt Roskill Grammar School starting at 4.30pm.

On Wednesday, the 1st XI Boys confirmed top place in the wider Auckland A1 grade with a 5-1 win over Rangitoto. MAGS won five games and drew one and finished with 16 points. Next Wednesday they play Orewa College in their semi-final, with time and venue to be confirmed.

Yesterday, the 1st XI girls confirmed top place in the wider Auckland A1 grade with a 4-1 win over St Mary's. MAGS won five games and drew two and finished with 17 points. Next Thursday they play St Cuthbert's in their semi-final, with time and venue to be confirmed. Also yesterday, the 2nd XI Girls, pictured above, won their section of the B grade with a 1-0 win over King's. They won all four of their games, scoring 16 goals and having none scored against them.

Fencers on the podium



MAGS Fencing teams won three medals at the Auckland Teams Championships last Sunday.

A MAGS Composite team won silver, the Girls won bronze, and MAGS A also won bronze.

Upcoming Premier Sport



Today, the Premier Girls and Boys Basketball teams are home to Takapuna College and Rosmini College at 6pm and 7.30pm respectively. The Football Boys 1st XI play Sacred Heart College at Bill McKinlay Park at 6pm.

On Saturday, the Netball Premiers play Westlake Girls High at the Auckland Netball Centre at 11.30am.

On Monday, the Rugby Girls 1st XV play for the title of Auckland Champions against Auckland Girls Grammar at 4pm v at Colin Maiden Park.

On Wednesday, the Football Girls Junior A play in the Junior APC Final against Baradene College at 1pm on Wednesday at Ellerslie AFC Turf, the Rugby Boys 1st XV play Aorere College at 2.30pm for the Geoff Moon Memorial Cup at MAGS, the Football Girls 1st XI play the Premier APC Cup Final against Baradene at 3pm at Ellerslie AFC, and the Hockey Boys 1st XI play a semifinal against Orewa College with details to be confirmed.

On Thursday, the Hockey Girls 1st XI play a semifinal with details to be confirmed, and the Lacrosse Girls Premiers play their One Day Tournament at Keith Hay Park, beginning with a game against St Mary's at 9.25am.

For updated fixtures and results, click [here](#)

A Tradition of Excellence

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland
09 846 2044 www.mags.school.nz

EXCELLENCE
CONNECTION
& GROWTH

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