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August 26, 2022 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Headmaster

[Weekly Notices](#)

## Personal Excellence



[Key Dates](#)



Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

Winter Tournament Week begins this Sunday and will see 220 MAGS students across 16 teams competing in regional and national sports tournaments.

These tournament teams come from the 1600 students involved in our sporting pillar this year. Heading into the arena wearing the Cambridge Blue and gold continues to be a critical part of an all-round MAGS education and it is fantastic to see so many students seizing the sporting opportunities on offer.

We have spent some time at assemblies over the past week looking at this concept of excellence. We often try to compare ourselves and our achievements to other people – and this is certainly a good way of measuring excellence – and our tournament teams will be doing just that.

But it can be much more valuable to reframe excellence in terms of 'continually striving to be better than before'. *Personal excellence* as a fluid concept, rather than a static goal, is much more valuable for our young people – especially as they are destined to get better at what they do for a long time yet!

Being an excellent MAGS student is a mindset and belief. Personal excellence is an achievable goal for every MAGS student – whether in the academic, sporting, artistic or service context.

All the best to our sports people as they chase excellence over the

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

### Sunday, August 28

Winter Tournament Week starts

### Thursday, September 29

Last day of classes for Term 3

### Friday, September 30

Teacher Only Day



[Sport](#)

[Photo Essays](#)



Rugby Girls 1st XV v One Tree Hill College

Click [here](#)

week.

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm

Headmaster



Premier Girls Lacrosse: One Day Tournament  
Click [here](#)

Fixtures and Results  
Click [here](#)

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**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



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## Centennial Choir wins Gold



The Centennial Choir travelled to Rotorua last week – one of 12 top secondary school choirs to compete in the 2022 Upper North Island Cadenza as part of The Big Sing competition.

The choir is directed by Terence Maskell and was accompanied at Cadenza by Juan Kim.



They presented three very diverse items, firstly *Te Aroha*, the waiata that they received the Te Tohu Waiata Award for at The Big Sing Auckland. Their second item was a very difficult French piece, *O Mes Tres Chers Freres*, featuring tenor Isaiah Nin, and they finished their set with the beautiful ballad *The Wonder of You*.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "The boys were outstanding, receiving a standing ovation for their performance and, after a second stellar performance in the gala concert, were awarded with a 'Tui', which is the equivalent of a gold.

"We were extremely proud of not only the beautiful singing but of the way the choir conducted itself throughout the competition."

You can see a video of the choir's time at Cadenza [here](#) or [here](#)

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## Remembering Mary Kerrigan



*Mary's husband Paul and daughters Holly and Nicole attended the plaque dedication in the F.W. Gamble Hall yesterday.*

MAGS celebrated the life of our former HOF Commerce Mary Kerrigan yesterday and dedicated a plaque to her that will go up in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Mary, pictured right, joined MAGS as Head of the Commerce Department in 2019, and passed away towards the end of the year.

Mary had taught alongside many current MAGS staff members in her previous roles at Aorere College and Papatoetoe High School. Her brother Joe Kerrigan teaches at MAGS.

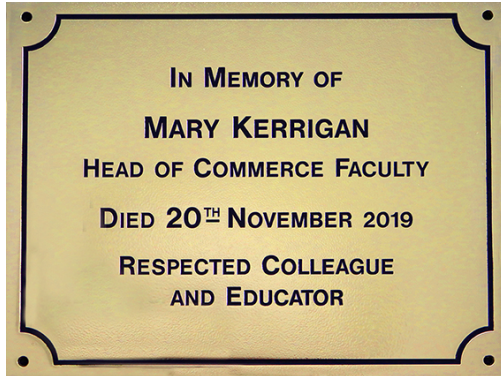
At the plaque dedication event in the hall yesterday, Mr Drumm told the invited guests that Mary will be remembered as an outstanding educator. He said



she possessed the highest expectations of students and fellow staff members – and was very comfortable giving constructive advice to the Headmaster about how we could continue to get better as a school.

Mr Drumm thanked her family for allowing MAGS to honour Mary with a plaque.

Aorere College Deputy Principal Steve Boyd also spoke about Mary's high standards and positive influence on staff and students in her time at Aorere. He said she gave of herself, and invested her time (and money) to help students be the best they could be.



Her husband Paul told guests that the family, while finding it difficult to deal with Mary's loss, were thankful that MAGS wanted to honour her memory.

The event closed with moving waiata from three members of MAGS' Centennial Choir: Isaiah Nin, Nathan Setefano and Jackson Absolum-Leuluso'o.

You can see more photos from the event [here](#)

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## Vaping – an interesting, informative read...

There is and continues to be much concern and debate regarding the impact of vaping on our young people. Recently the NZ Herald published the article **Science Digest: Do you know what's inside your vape?**

Parents are encouraged to access and read this article [here](#)



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## Science in action





MAGS welcomed back Albertian Mark Dashper (1970-73), who talked about and demonstrated taonga pūoro (Māori traditional musical instruments) in Physics lessons this morning for students studying sound waves. Mark, pictured right, who works at Future Learning Solutions for Auckland Uniservices, specialises in innovative learning and gave a fascinating insight into how the instruments are made, played and on what occasions they would be used. At the end of his talk he handed out hollow bamboo pieces that students tried playing and could modify for themselves.



**Centenary Events on sale now**



Our [Centenary Events website](#) now has full details about the upcoming Centenary celebrations during the week of September 25 to October 1.

You can buy tickets for paid events or register for free events via the site.



Highlights of the week include:

- Thanksgiving Service (Sunday, September 25, 10am, FW Gamble Hall)
- Albertians' Day and Luncheon (Wednesday, September 28, at MAGS)
- Golf Day (Thursday, September 29, 11am, Muriwai Golf Club)
- The Alternative School Tour with the Pua brothers (Friday, September 30, 10am at MAGS)
- Centenary Reunion Drinks (Friday, September 30, 6pm, FW Gamble Hall)
- Centenary Dinner (Saturday, October 1, 6.30pm, Grand Millennium Hotel)
- School Tours (various days throughout the week)

You can learn more about these Centenary Events and buy tickets for them or register for them [here](#)

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## Daffodil Day backs fight against cancer





The Health Committee did a great job supporting Daffodil Day this year with collections, the sale of daffodils and a bake sale yesterday. Funds raised through Daffodil Day go to the Cancer Society and give hope to those impacted with cancer. Money raised helps fund their services and cancer research.



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## Revenge of the Amazons







Last week, Level 3 Drama put on *Revenge of the Amazons* across four nights.

With over 260 invited attendees across the week, the audience was treated to the incredible work of 35 students who performed with grace, respect, and comic timing.

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the audience, who all picked up on different things from coming to see the show. It made us laugh, cry, and cry from laughing.

"Throughout the process of performance week, I made the decision to dedicate the show to a very special student, Miller Bell (pictured left).

"Alongside his work in the Learning Centre, Miller has taken Drama for the past four years for the same reason many students do – to grow their social skills, to gain confidence speaking, and to be creative.

"Throughout his time in the Drama

Department he has consistently put effort into everything that he does, and has grown an incredible amount. It made sense that we needed him in the show, no less as the narrator. "Ultimately, this was a very special experience for a very special group of students, for whom this is the last production they will do at MAGS."

You can see more photos from *Revenge of the Amazons* [here](#)

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## Out-of-Zone Applications for 2023

The Mount Albert Grammar School Board of Trustees may approve a limited number of out-of-zone enrolments for 2023.

Applications for out-of-zone enrolments must be received by Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

Should a ballot be required for out-of-zone enrolments, this will occur on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

You can find out more about enrolment [here](#)

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## Pacific Climate Warriors urge action







As part of this term's 12 Outdoor Education unit on Bushcraft, students went on an outdoor overnight survival training course run by SOS Survival, who have a military background and work at a base near Muriwai.

The course focused on the essentials of survival: protection, location, water and food, and gave the students a practical insight into some basic survival skills.

During the course the students started by learning about the basic principles of survival, followed by some basic knots used for a variety of purposes. They then learned how to build a natural shelter to sleep in and developed fire lighting skills in the bush. They then had to cook on their fire and maintain it overnight for warmth as well as sleep in the shelter they had made.

Mr Belson said, "It was an awesome experience with lots of learning in a practical environment as well as ensuring that what you did, did not not have poor outcomes.

"Well done to all 12OE students who took part in this experience."

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## Homestay families for 2023

The International Department is currently looking for families to accommodate our international students in the year commencing 2023.

Homestays are our most popular style of accommodation as our students benefit from living with an English-speaking family and sharing in the NZ family experience. The experience is enriching and rewarding for both students and hosts.

### **What are the expectations of a host family?**

A host is expected to provide a clean and comfortable bedroom with bed, wardrobe (built-in or free-standing) and drawers, linen and towels, desk and lamp, heating in room, three meals a day plus snacks and laundry. We prefer our students to be placed within a 20-minute commute of school

What is the benefit of hosting?

- A chance to meet students from all over the world.
- An opportunity for your children to learn a different language and build an international friend network. We have many families who have visited or sent their children to stay with their past homestay students overseas.
- Prompt fortnightly payment of \$640 (\$320 per week).
- Short- and long-term students available.



If you would like some further information, please email [homestay@mags.school.co.nz](mailto:homestay@mags.school.co.nz)

## Rogaine tests navigation skills

Our 13 Outdoor Education class recently participated in a rogaine, a four-day class navigation exercise in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park between Te Aroha and Katikati.

Each group had 37 hours to find as many checkpoints as possible before returning to the start/finish line in Te Aroha on time to avoid any time penalties.

Wherever they were at 5.30pm was where they had to sleep the night and they weren't allowed to move again until 7.00am the next day.

Head of Outdoor Education Mr Whitehead said, "It was a real test of their leadership, group work and adaptability, to find as many marked features as possible.

"Congratulations to Lily Brislen, Cory Henderson, Charlie Morton, Daniel

Neeley, Ava Paynter, Misha Simpson and Harrison Wills (all pictured above right), who won the event. And thank you to Mr Ploeg for giving up his time and helping on this trip."



**Get your Centenary merchandise now!**





MAGS Official Centenary apparel and merchandise is now available to order, with more Centenary merchandise to be added.

Available now are stylish hoodies, rugby jerseys, basketball singlets, caps, beanies, ties, scarves and face masks – all in MAGS colours and most of them boasting the Centenary logo.

You can order MAGS Centenary apparel and merchandise [here](#)



## Sports Update

### Premier Sport season wrap-up



With Tournament Week kicking off on Sunday, the Winter Sports season has just about wrapped up, especially for our Premier teams.

Of the Premiers, only the Rugby Girls 1st XV have yet to finish their season, with an AKSS Final against Auckland Girls Grammar next Monday at 4pm at Colin Maiden Park, after they won their semifinal against One Tree Hill College 45-12 on Monday.



After winning their semifinal 53-50 against Baradene last Friday, the Basketball Girls Premiers finished runners-up to Westlake Girls in the AKSS Final last night. The Basketball Boys Premiers finished their season in fifth.

The Netball Premiers were runners-up in the Waitakere Netball Final, and after their game on Wednesday night finished fourth in the Auckland Comp.

After a good start to the season, the Rugby Boys 1st XV finished seventh.

The Hockey Boys 1st XI finished their A1 season in second place. The Hockey Girls 1st XI finished sixth after their playoff against Macleans College.

After their playoff against EGGS, the Football Girls 1st XI finished 4th for the season. The Football Boys 1st XI finished fifth in their competition

The Badminton Premier Open team finished in eighth.

The Lacrosse Girls Premiers finished their season in third, and yesterday were runners-up in the One Day Tournament.

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

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## Winter Tournament Week



*Our Senior Open Under Water Hockey team finished third at AKSS this week and are off to nationals in Wellington next week.*

MAGS has 16 teams competing across a huge range of sports during Winter Tournament Week.

Click on the table below to expand it and view the sports, the dates they are being played and their venues.

For more detail on the teams' fixtures (and results as they happen) click [here](#) for the Winter Tournament Week fixture list.

<b>Sunday, 28 August 2022</b>		
BBNZ Basketball AA Junior Girls A Premiership (Regionals)	Tuesday, 30 August 2022	<b>Auckland - Pulman Park</b>
BBNZ Basketball AA Junior Boys A Premiership (Regionals)	Tuesday, 30 August 2022	<b>Auckland - Pulman Park</b>
<b>Monday, 29 August 2022</b>		
NZSS Hockey Girls' Jenny Gilmer Cup	Friday, 2 September 2022	<b>Palmerston North</b>
NZSS Hockey Boys' Olympic Cup	Friday, 2 September 2022	<b>Palmerston North</b>
NZSS Rugby League Tournament	Friday, 2 September 2022	<b>Rotorua</b>
NISS Upper North Island Netball	Friday, 2 September 2022	Howick, <b>Auckland - Pakuranga Netball Centre</b>
NZSS Football Boys' Lotto Premier	Friday, 2 September 2022	Island Park, <b>Napier</b>
NZSS Football Girls' Lotto Premier	Friday, 2 September 2022	<b>Taupo</b>
National Invitational U15 Rugby Tournament	Friday, 2 September 2022	CBHS, <b>Christchurch</b>
NZSS Football Girls Invitational - 2nd XI	Friday, 2 September 2022	Whenuapai, <b>Auckland - Fred Taylor Park</b>
NISS Curling	Friday, 2 September 2022	Avondale, <b>Auckland</b>
<b>Wednesday, 31 August 2022</b>		
BBNZ Basketball AA Boys Premiership (Regionals)	Saturday, 3 September 2022	Pulman Park, <b>Auckland</b>
BBNZ Basketball AA Girls Premiership (Regionals)	Saturday, 3 September 2022	Pulman Park, <b>Auckland</b>
<b>Thursday, 1 September 2022</b>		
NZSS Under Water Hockey	Sunday, 4 September 2022	<b>Wellington</b>
<b>Friday, 2 September 2022</b>		
NZSS Fencing	Sunday, 4 September 2022	<b>Auckland</b>
NZSS Girls Lacrosse	Sunday, 4 September 2022	<b>Hamilton</b>

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A Tradition of Excellence

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