

[View this email in your browser](#)



December 1, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Headmaster

## Key Dates

### The Expert Teacher



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

Common sense supports the importance of the relationship between the expertise of the teacher and the quality of learning and success experienced by their students.

Numerous studies have further reinforced the added value that an

expert teacher can bring to the classroom – potentially improving student achievement by over one third!

At this time of the school year, we are working hard to recruit quality teachers to MAGS for the 2024 academic year. A lack of action from Ministries and Ministers of Education over a long period have resulted in the pool of suitable teachers in New Zealand shrinking to an all-time low.

Yet, as a school, we are fortunate to still be attracting expert teachers to MAGS. A school ethos that values academic scholarship and a knowledge-based curriculum is undoubtedly helping here. A student culture of respect for learning is also an asset in the recruitment process.

And so it is wonderful to celebrate one of our outstanding MAGS teachers.

Ms Coadette Low (pictured left) heads our Agriculture Department. Together with our students, she enjoys the ASB MAGS Farm as her classroom.

With the Farm a centenary gift last year from ASB to the MAGS Foundation, we knew we had gained a learning environment like no

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



#### Tuesday, December 5

Junior Prizegivings:

Year 10, 9.30am

Year 9, 12.30pm

## Sport

### Photo Essays



Junior Boys Touch Championships

Click [here](#)



other. But regardless of this incredible asset, it was always going to be the teacher that made the greatest difference to our students. Coadette is making that difference.

Today in Melbourne, Coadette received a prestigious National Excellence in Teaching Award along with three other New Zealand teachers and 12 Australian teachers. Her work both within MAGS and with the wider leadership in agricultural education has been outstanding. Congratulations Coadette on being recognised for your expertise and as an outstanding teacher. MAGS joins you in celebrating your achievement.

Have a good weekend!

Patrick Drumm  
Headmaster



Junior Girls Touch  
Championships  
Click [here](#)

**Fixtures and Results**  
Click [here](#)

**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



## Oustanding teacher award



Congratulations to our HOD Agriculture Coadette Low, who has been awarded a prestigious NEiTA Apple Award at a luncheon held in Melbourne today. The Apple Award, which comes with a \$5000 professional development grant, is to acknowledge outstanding teachers who've gone above and beyond for their students. Stephanie McQuillian, who nominated Ms Low for the award, says she is an exceptional educator in what is a predominantly male sector. "Coadette is a leading light for other female educators to pursue a career in agriculture. She has expert knowledge in her field. She is passionate, progressive and consistently seeks new ways to improve her practice," says Ms McQuillian. "She really goes above and beyond leading the next generation." Ms Low said, "I love being an Agriculture teacher, and I am so grateful for this award. I am incredibly humbled by the nomination and completely honoured to have been one of the 2023 recipients. But I would not be here if it was not for the incredible teachers that I have worked with, or the students that I have taught – past and present. You are the ones who keep me motivated and inspired."



---

## Albertian of the Year: Thomas Wynne



Thomas Wynne was celebrated as Albertian of the Year today at an event held in the W.O.H. Gibbs Room.

Thomas attended MAGS from 1980 to 1984. Since leaving school he has devoted himself to service in a wide variety of endeavours, both in New Zealand and in the Cook Islands. He has been involved in education, health, counselling, communications, politics and is a strong advocate for Pasifika political, social and development challenges and successes. He is extremely proud of his Pasifika background and is currently co-opted to the MAGS Board of Trustees.

Assistant Archivist Mr Cave, who was one of Thomas's teachers and read his citation, said, "Thomas was one of a number of students from the 1980s who developed what we now call a social conscience. He was involved in the development of Meola Creek, what is now called the Roy Clements Treeway, and he also travelled to Pureora with Roy and a number of other students to help with native tree planting there.

"Thomas also got involved in student politics and stood for the Board of Trustees in the first ever elections for a student rep – he wasn't elected but this may have been the germ of his interest in social justice and every role he has undertaken since leaving school both in New Zealand and in the Cook Islands has involved some aspect of social justice – except maybe his time playing American football."

Thomas said he was honoured by the award, and his parents were overwhelmed by the recognition. He spoke of his Cook Islands and Irish heritage and his grandparents' and parents' journey in New Zealand.

He also expressed gratitude to his teachers, especially Mr Clements, his English teacher, who was present for the ceremony.

---

## Interform competition winners revealed



Our Junior School students enjoyed some intense competition yesterday and Wednesday to see who was the champion mentor class for the year.

Interform Finals Day winners got a pizza lunch while the overall champions for the year enjoyed a trip to the movies.



Points gained in the finals day challenges were added to those gathered throughout the year and the winning form classes announced. The year-long competition is a fun series of challenges, with classes gaining points depending on their placings in each event. Extra points are given for participation, support, fair play and teamwork. Thanks to Ms Inwood and the PE Department for organising and running the finals day fun.

Overall Junior School winners were: Year 9 Girls – 09AIN (pictured above), Year 9 Boys – 09HBN (pictured below), Year 10 Girls – 10ABR, and Year 10 Boys – 10KNW.

Interform Finals Day winners were: Year 9 Girls – 09CHP, Year 9 Boys – 09MHG, Year 10 Girls – 10SMA, Year 10 Boys – 10FNK.

You can see more photos [here](#)



---

## Duke of Ed Gold Award

After five years of dedicated work, Albertian Kaemon Ah Kuoi-Simich (2018-2022) was presented with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Gold Award by none other than HRH Prince Edward, the current Duke of Edinburgh.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in New Zealand. It is an internationally recognised programme that helps

equip rangatahi for promising futures by challenging them to develop skills and tools to improve themselves – and their communities.

Kaemon's message at the Gold Award Ceremony in Wellington was that "the Award made me more adventurous and give back to the community. It has also led to me making many new friendships and connections. I think the Award is a very enjoyable, fulfilling and worthwhile experience." Kaemon adds "I am grateful to all the people who have helped me on the way to achieving my Gold Award – teachers, kaumatua, coaches, friends and whānau – and especially my MAGS DoE leader Mr Andy Belson, and Mrs Elise Goddard."



---

## Healthy habits over the holidays

We are rapidly coming to the end of another school year. I am sure many of you, like us, are hoping for those long awaited summer days.

This summer break is an important time for your teens to relax and unwind from the pressures of the school year and exams.

However, as we are aware, it can be easy for teens to slip into some unhelpful habits, like staying awake late into the night and sleeping the day away.

Over the break here are a few tips for parents to hand on to their teens:

- Stick to a reasonable sleeping pattern, especially through the week nights
- Get outside and exercise – walk, bike, swim etc
- Get sun and fresh air
- Eat healthy food and drink water
- Socialise with friends face to face
- Attend family events
- Talk and laugh as a family
- Get them to try something new

If you are worried about major changes in your teen's mood or about them constantly distancing themselves, below are some helpline numbers and websites to support you and your teen.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Youthline's free, confidential, 24/7 service:

- Call 0800 37 66 33
- Text 234
- Chat via [Webchat](#)
- Email [talk@youthline.co.nz](mailto:talk@youthline.co.nz)

#### **Youth Mental Health Support:**

Lowdown: 0800 111 757, TXT 1737. [www.thelowdown.co.nz](http://www.thelowdown.co.nz)

EaseUp: <https://emergeaotearoa.org.nz/our-services/easeup.html>

Suicide Crisis Line: 0508 828 865

National Helpline: Free txt 1737

#### **Other services:**

Youth Drug and Alcohol: CADS Auckland: 0800 845 1818. [www.cads.org.nz](http://www.cads.org.nz)

Online harm: NETSAFE 0508 638 723, TXT 4282 for Online chat support.

[www.netsafe.org.nz](http://www.netsafe.org.nz)

Sexual Harm: HELP: 24/7 0800 623 1700, TXT 8236. [www.helpauckland.org.nz](http://www.helpauckland.org.nz)

Eating Disorders: EDANZ: 0800 2330269. [www.ed.org.nz](http://www.ed.org.nz)

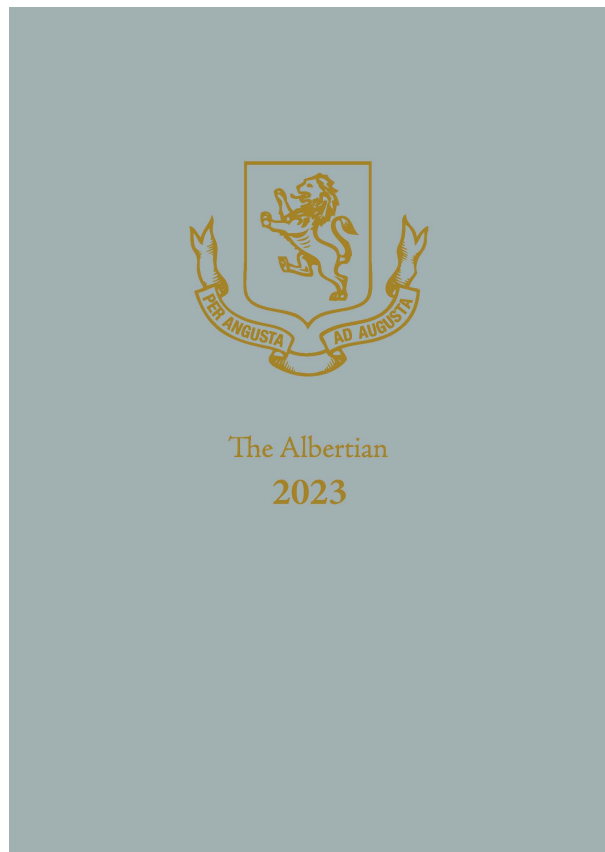
---

## **Order your 2023 Albertian now**

Our Finance Department is now taking orders for The Albertian 2023, which will be available by mid-2024.

The yearbook contains a full wrap-up of the year including Academia, Arts, Service and

Sports reports and photos as well as formal class photos – and much more! It can be delivered to Year 13 students, rather than picked up from MAGS, for a small extra cost. You can order the Albertian [here](#)



---

## Reminder to empty lockers



Please be aware that student lockers must be emptied and locks removed before students leave for the year.

Any remaining locks will be removed during the holidays and any contents stored at the Student Centre for collection next year.

Students will need to purchase a new locker next year if they want one.

---



# Homestay families required

MAGS is still looking for more wonderful families, as we have a large number of International students starting in 2024. This is a great opportunity to learn about a different culture and build lasting friendships.

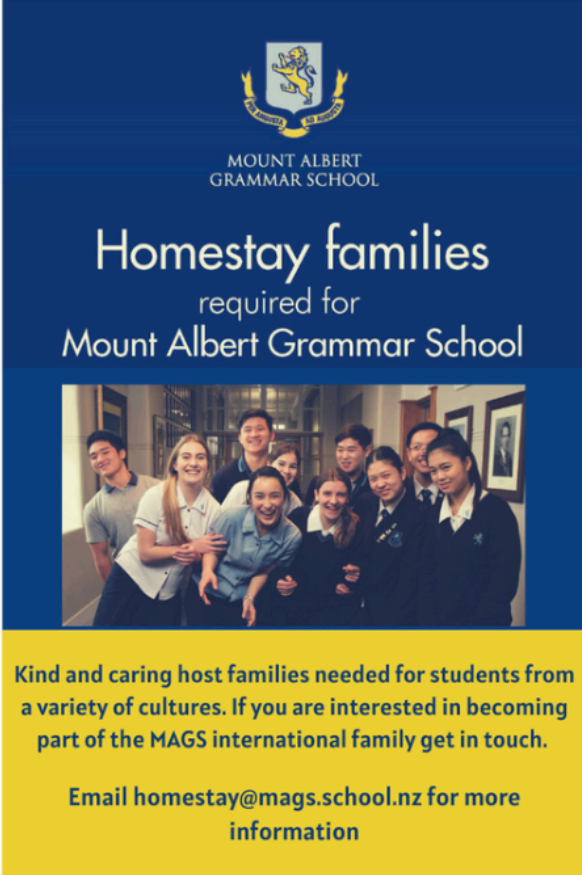
Our next student intake will be for Term 1, 2024. We will have short- and long-term students, staying for between 10 weeks to a full year. Homestay families are our most popular choice of accommodation as our students benefit from living with an English-speaking family and sharing in the New Zealand family experience.

## What are the expectations of a host family?

A host family is expected to provide a clean and comfortable bedroom with a bed, a wardrobe (built-in or free-standing) and drawers, linen and towels, a desk and a lamp and three meals a day.

## The application process:

The application process involves police vetting for all family members over 18 years. This is followed by a home visit from the school. This helps us to know a little more about your family's interests and lifestyle and enables us to make a well-informed student match. We pay \$330.00 per week (from 2024) which is paid fortnightly in advance. If you would like some further information, or to receive the application forms, please email [homestay@mags.school.nz](mailto:homestay@mags.school.nz)



Kind and caring host families needed for students from a variety of cultures. If you are interested in becoming part of the MAGS international family get in touch.

Email [homestay@mags.school.nz](mailto:homestay@mags.school.nz) for more information

---

## MAGS has your Xmas sorted

Neat Meat is again helping our Sports Department with fundraising for students in need – \$10 from every ham sold goes back to the school.

Pick-up is December 11, and you can order [here](#)

And MAGSRow has Christmas cakes and trees for sale, as per below.



## **Quality Manuka Smoked Christmas Hams**

**The perfect Gift for you and MAGS**



**New Zealand Free Farmed Half Ham, Cooked on the Bone.  
Gluten Free and Delicious.**

**Each ham weighs approximately 4.25 - 4.75kg**

**How it works: \$90 per ham, with \$10 of this going back to  
Mount Albert Grammar School. <https://forms.gle/dSvM9vwwSyCchN8aZ>**

**Pick up: Monday 11th December 4-6pm from MAGS.**

**Get in quick while they last, only 80 hams!**

---



# Support MAGS Rowing this Christmas!!

Yummy Xmas Cakes:

**BREAD & BUTTER**  
BREAD THAT'S BETTER

## Christmas cakes from Bread & Butter

- Traditional rich, dark Christmas cake with fruit & spices (*cakes 15cm in diameter & weigh approximately 900g*)
  - Will come to you attractively gift-wrapped
  - \$35 each or \$32 when you order five or more
  - Ideal as gifts for family, friends, staff or suppliers
  - To make an order, please email your order through to [christasmagsrow@gmail.com](mailto:christasmagsrow@gmail.com)
- Cakes will be delivered early December



## Real Christmas Trees

Nothing beats the smell of real Christmas trees

- Trees start at \$60
- To order your tree (or trees!), visit the Misa website <https://misachristmastrees.co.nz/> and use the code MAGS20



---

## Sports Update

### Top sportspeople recognised



MAGS' 2023 Victrix Ludorum Anika Todd and Victor Ludorum Roy Tatupu were All Rounder winners at the YSPOTY Awards.

This year's College Sports Young Sportsperson of the Year (YSPOTY) Awards saw 17 MAGS student nominations for 10 categories with the following winners:

- Anika Todd – All Rounder Award Winner (Athletics, Cricket, Football)
- Roy Tatupu – All Rounder Award Winner (Netball, Rugby, Rugby League, Softball, Volleyball)
- Kade Cartwright – Basketball Boys Category Winner
- Sam Carryer (pictured right)– Orienteering Boys Category Winner
- Marlin Toloa – Waka Ama Boys Category Winner
- Eli Harford-Lewis – Weightlifting Boys Category Winner
- MAGS Orienteering – Team of the Year Winner.



Director of Sport Mr Hipa said, "A successful year for MAGS students. A big thank you to the students who have put in a lot of hard work, the continuous support from their families, the coaches and managers who have invested a lot of time into the students, and a special acknowledgement for the MAGS sports staff for their tireless work."

---

## Junior Girls Tag take Bronze



On Wednesday, the Junior Girls Tag team competed at the Auckland Secondary School Junior Tag Championships at Cox's Bay Reserve.

They had qualified by finishing fourth at the Central/North/West zone three weeks ago.

Their first game against eventual winners Aorere College started well, taking an early lead, 3-0. Aorere came back with some strong individual play and eventually won 7-3.

The next game against Westlake Girls White proved to be a close encounter with both teams showing strong defensive resilience in what proved to be an even battle. The final score was 0-0.

To qualify for the semi-finals, MAGS needed a big win against Botany Downs. The Girls showed some great skill and structure in this game to win 9-0 to qualify for the semi-finals by scoring more points than Westlake White through pool play.

In the semi-final, MAGS played Westlake Girls Black. Westlake got into a good position, leading 3-0 in the first half. MAGS played better in the second half scoring one try but the deficit was too much to claw back going down 4-1. The 3rd/4th playoff was a repeat of the same fixture from the zones, against Rangitoto College. The girls were eager to come away with a medal and this showed in their performance. A strong start on attack helped contribute to a 4-1 win to finish 3rd.

Assistant Director of Sport Mr Crossan said, "In a competitive tournament and with many Year 9s in the team, there is a good base to work with for future years. Thanks to Tutu Tairea and Michelle Driscoll for coaching the team at the tournament. Also, thanks to all the parents who assisted with transport and supporting the team on the day."

---

## Spike in Junior Volleyball season



Junior Volleyball has been full on over the last few weeks of the season, with Auckland champs and Nationals and Beach Volleyball all happening within the last 8 weeks.

Both teams did really well in their respective zones with the Girls taking 1st place in their Central West Zone and the boys taking 4th. Auckland Championships was the first big competition for most of the players, however they took their chances and worked really hard to ensure they played strongly throughout the tournament.

The boys took a respectable 9th place and the girls, with an outstanding run, came through making the Division 1 final but unfortunately fell just short to a strong Rangitoto College.

To top this tournament off, we had three MAGS players making the tournament teams. For the girls, captain Tayla-Rose Mose and Pearlina Mikaele and for the boys, Year 9 student Tarquinius Schwalger.

MAGS continued with their run through to North Island Juniors where both teams faced extremely long days and strong opposition.

The boys finished a strong 11th place and the girls finished 12th – both teams in Division 1 for the first time in a number of years competing against 50 other schools from around the North Island.

The final competition of the junior year was the North Island junior beach champs where we had six teams competing against 66 other beach pairs. All teams had a mixture of results, however highlight for this competition was Loloko Lulia and Melepuopua Tevunga beating the number 1 seed and eventual finalists Rangitoto College.



---

## Junior Girls Softball win championship



Our Softball Junior Girls played in the Auckland final against Auckland Girls Grammar School last Wednesday, November 22, at Eden Roskill Softball Club.

MAGS only had seven of 10 players available, so with some positional changes MAGS took to the diamond and had a strong start with Central Salt pitching and Salamasina Fa'alogo catching.

With some great hits, MAGS scored five runs in the 1st innings and held AGGS scoreless. With more outstanding batting and solid infielding/outfielding, MAGS won the match in three innings, 7-3, making them the Auckland Junior Girls Champions.

Sports Administrator Mrs Johns said, "Thank you to Coach Steve for being there each week and being adaptable with our young players."

---

## Junior Touch Championships



Our Junior Boys and Girls Touch players took part in the Junior Championships at Cox's Bay Reserve this week, with the Girls winning the Plate Final.

The Junior A Girls lost in pool play to eventual winners St Kentigern College 3-5 and Mahurangi College 3-4.

They then beat Selwyn College and Epsom Girls in the quarters and semis to play Diocesan in the Plate Final, which they won easily.

Most of the team haven't played before so it was pleasing to see them make the plate and win.

Junior Girls MVP Maddisyn McGlone was captain of the team and was by far the best performer at the one-day tournament.

The Boys played four pool games in what was the largest Auckland championships in a long time. They beat Mahurangi College 6-3, who are a strong side, then lost to Auckland Grammar 3-6. They then beat Rosmini B 4-3 and finished with a strong win over Papatoetoe, 8-1.

Unfortunately, there were no cross-overs outside of the top of each pool so that is as far as the Boys progressed.





**A Tradition of Excellence**

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland  
09 846 2044 [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

**EXCELLENCE  
CONNECTION  
& GROWTH**

*Copyright © 2023 Mount Albert Grammar School. All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)