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Week 8, Term 4, December 6, 2019 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

The People of MAGS

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Wednesday, January 22

Senior Re-Enrolment
(10.30am-3pm)

Tuesday, January 28

Year 9s start school

Wednesday, January 29

Full school starts



Sport

Photo Essay

Junior Mixed Water Polo team
at the NISS Championships

Click [here](#)



Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

I regularly receive feedback from visitors to MAGS about the impressiveness of our main building.

Since the laying of the foundation stone in 1921 by the then-Minister of Education, this iconic Mount Albert landmark has stood resolutely as a symbol of a MAGS education.

Each morning we are greeted with a reminder of the tradition and history of our school – but one that we know goes well beyond



bricks and mortar (albeit impressive as they may be!).

The true building blocks will always be the people of MAGS – and 2019 has been special for our people. As a community we have grieved the loss of two of our staff members, Geoff Moon and Mary Kerrigan – we miss them dearly. But it has also been a time of celebration as we recognised staff members for their extraordinary service to MAGS. Brian Murphy (60 years) and Greg Cave (retiring after 46 years) in particular, represent the long-service ethos so unique to MAGS over the years.

As we look to 2020, we are excited about new buildings and facilities coming on line. Our physical resources will continue to be an impressive part of our school. But it will be the quality of human resource that will ultimately drive our success – and our school is blessed with fantastic people.

Thank you to all those who have made MAGS exceptional this year.

Have a safe and restful Christmas break.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Leavers Celebration changes it up



In a change with tradition, the Year 13 Leavers Celebration was held at MAGS this year with a formal ceremony followed by a lively street food buffet-style banquet.

The Tuesday evening event provided a great opportunity for students to celebrate their time at MAGS with their families, staff and peers, and say their farewells.

The formal ceremony began in the FW Gamble Hall with Headmaster Patrick Drumm congratulating the students on their achievements and presenting the Head Prefects and their Deputies with the Prefect Trophies.

Head Boy Germain Hellriegel-White and Head Girl Takunda Muzondiwa reflected on the highs and lows of their years at MAGS before the first group of Year 13s were presented with their graduation certificates and became Albertians.

Year 13 Deans Andy Belson and Shelley Mackinlay-Milne expressed satisfaction and some relief at seeing their charges graduate, and laid down a challenge for them to chase their dreams.

The second group of graduates were presented with their graduation certificates before the Leavers Video was played.

Guests then moved to the Atrium of the MH Building for a buffet dinner followed by a band that included Albertians Denzel Kelemete and Billy McColl, who laid down some catchy pop and funk classics.

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



Junior Prizegiving ends school year



The school year wrapped up on a high note yesterday with the recipients of MAGS' top Junior academic, sports, arts and service awards for 2019 being celebrated at the Year 9 and Year 10 Prizegiving ceremonies.

The Junior Girl Dux and Boy Dux for 2018 are Eva Wadsworth and Sam Mandeno-Clay (pictured above with Mr Drumm).

Nishera Gnanendra was named the Best All-Round Girl in Year 10, while Manas Chigurukota won the equivalent Boys' award. They are pictured below with Mr Drumm.



The Paul Gardner Cup for Service in the Junior School was presented to Paige Tyson-Taylor and Kaemon Ah Kuoi-Simich for their involvement in a range of activities.

The Junior Victrix Ludorum was shared by twins Hannah and Natalie Brook with the Junior Victor Ludorum being Ben Skelton.

The Junior Duces Artium are Max Cumberpatch and Lucy Taylor.

The Best All-Round Boy and Girl in Year 9 are Isaiah Fale and Bella Houghton.

The Neville Watson Award for the students who best exemplify the spirit of the school was won by Hokioramai Dunn

(in Year 9) and Ella Sutton (in Year 10).

Lorielle Crowley and Jack Millar MC'ed the Year 10 Prizegiving, with a musical interlude

from the Junior Boys Choir, who performed *Edelweiss*, conducted by Kanhaiya Naidu and accompanied by Eric Shen on piano. They repeated the performance in the afternoon for the Year 9 Prizegiving, this time accompanied by choirmaster Terrence Maskell on piano. Tabitha Freeman and Jackson Boswell MC'ed the Year 9 Prizegiving. You can see more photos from the ceremonies [here](#)



Greg Cave's 46 years celebrated



After 46 years of teaching at MAGS, Greg Cave has retired and was farewelled at a special event held in the FW Gamble Hall on Monday evening that was attended by friends, family and colleagues and students past and present.

Mr Cave was also at MAGS for five years as a student. His father was a student in 1923 and two of Mr Cave's sons attended in the 80s/90s. Mr Cave has had various responsibilities over the years and taught numerous subjects, and retires as HOD Classics and Associate Academic Dean.

At the event, Headmaster Patrick Drumm said that the theme for 2019 has been one of service, with Mr Cave's of the most extraordinary kind.

Mr Drumm said that Mr Cave, who had recently been named Albertian of the Year, was a "four-waller" in that his legacy was reflected in the Honours Boards around four walls of the hall.

You can read more about the farewell and see more photos [here](#)

Mask Show enthrals youngsters



On Monday, Year 10 Drama students entertained a group of Year 2s and 3s from Edendale Primary school with a series of mask performances based on some favourite childhood stories.

The students created the masks and performances themselves.

HOD Drama Gerald Urquhart said, "There were a lot of nerves before the performances with the students unsure how the young children would react.

"But they were soon put at ease by the enthusiastic reception from the audience who were enthralled with classic stories such as *Red Riding Hood*, *Winnie the Pooh* and *The Gruffalo*. Our students thrived with the rambunctious energy of our guests.

"I am incredibly proud of the effort the Year 10s have made in creating this performance."
For more photos from the performance, click [here](#)



Music to our ears



Pictured with the new piano in the Staffroom are, from left, Kanhaiya Naidu, Vera Wei, Ms Cesan and Eric Shen.

MAGS is delighted to have received a new piano from Huawei to assist with the growth of the music and choral programmes.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Jacqui Cesan said of the Pearl River upright piano – now in the Staffroom: "This donation is invaluable – having this in the Staffroom allows us to utilise another space for music and choir rehearsal and performance while we wait for the new Arts Space build. Formerly, a lack of piano for accompaniment meant that groups were fighting over few spaces."

Huawei PR manager Vera Wei came in to meet with Ms Cesan and two of our talented pianists Kanhaiya Naidu and Eric Shen, who were happy to have an opportunity to play for her. Both students commented that the piano was beautiful to play.

Ms Cesan added, "We are very grateful to Huawei for this generous donation and also MP Melissa Lee for suggesting MAGS as a recipient for this."

MAGS was the final beneficiary of Huawei's 100 Piano Project. Ms Wei said this was the last of the 100 pianos that the technology company had distributed throughout New Zealand to inspire imagination and creativity.

"We're honoured to be able to help out the community, while the community has been very supportive towards Huawei in the last 15 years."

Peer Mediators' new look



This week, the Peer Mediators for 2020 underwent training with the help of the Peace Foundation and our Counselling Department.

Next year, there will be 53 Year 13 Peer Mediators, who will also wear new high-vis vests, as modelled above by Theo Casey-Pickering and Humeera Imran. These Kaiāwhina (advocates) will be out and about at intervals and lunchtimes to address any questions or low-level disputes.

The theme for next year will be 'Celebrating diversity through the arts', which will be promoted during Peace Week and at other events during the year that the Peer Mediators

are planning on staging.



Can drive for the needy



Year 9 and 10 students collected more than 600 cans in a few short weeks for families in need over Christmas and New Year.

The St Vincent de Paul Society came by and collected our cans and were thrilled with our contribution.

English Language Excellence Awards



Four students from each of the English Language intensive classes have received a certificate for personal excellence and for supporting the MAGS Way. Pictured with Headmaster Patrick Drumm are, from left, Zigui Gong, Damena Debele, Richel Song and Huanhong Lei.

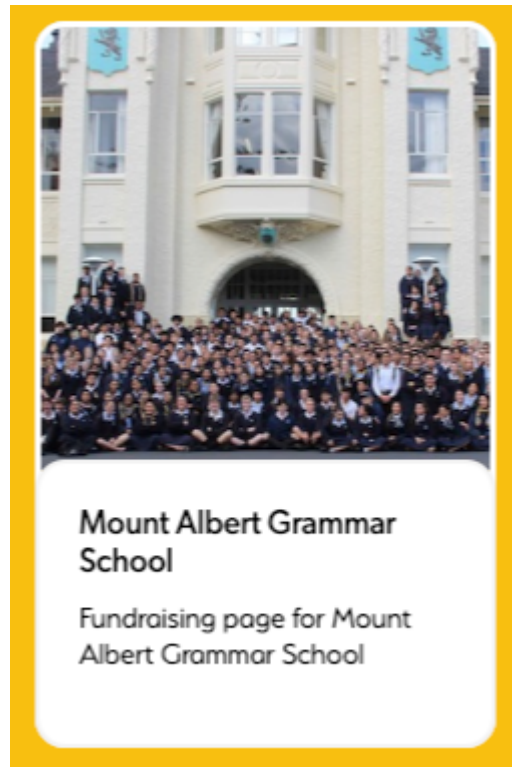
Support MAGS with Rewardhub

We're excited to share with the MAGS community a way to raise funds for the school that costs you nothing and can even save you money on your purchases.

MAGS has joined with [Rewardhub](#), a website where more than 100 leading brands will reward us with free donations, at no extra cost to you, when you shop online via Rewardhub and are signed up to support us.

It's an easy place to shop and includes special discount codes on big brands in fashion, beauty, entertainment, travel, utilities, money, homeware, food, drink and more.

To learn more and sign up to our page, please click [here](#)



Sign up to the Centenary database



THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, LORD JELlicoe FORMALLY OPENING THE MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT AUCKLAND LAST WEEK.

As we get closer to our Centenary in 2022, we warmly invite all Albertians to sign up to the database [here](#) to keep up to date with information, communications and events leading up to the Centenary celebration.

Please encourage your friends and peers who were with you at MAGS to attend with you, and to also register at the link.

Order school stationery for 2020 now

Stationery lists for 2020 have been released, and stationery can be ordered through the OfficeMax MySchool programme.

There are various options for ordering online, buying in-store and delivery.

During December, parents will be able to take advantage of OfficeMax's special 'Say When You Pay' offer – ideal for getting organised before Christmas. You can choose when to pay and when to receive your order.

Click [here](#) for the Stationery page on the MAGS website.

School dates for re-opening in 2020

Mount Albert Grammar School is now closed for the summer holidays. The International Office will close on Friday, December 13, and will reopen on January 8, 2020.

The Enrolment Office will be open again on Monday, January 20, 2020. Mount Albert Grammar School enrolments should be done online [here](#)

Senior Re-Enrolment is on Wednesday, January 22 (10.30am-3pm).

The Finance Office will be open again on Tuesday, January 28 **for Year 9 only**. For all other years, the Finance Office is open from Wednesday, January 29.

On Tuesday, January 28, Year 9s start school, with the full school in on the next day – Wednesday, January 29.

The term dates for 2020 can be found [here](#)



Uniform Shop hours

The last day the Lion's Den Uniform Shop will be open this year is Thursday, December 12 (3pm-6pm) and it won't reopen again until January 6 (9am-1pm).

It is also open on Auckland Anniversary Day – Monday, January 27 (9am-12pm) – to alleviate any last-minute rush before school opens for Year 9s on January 28 and for the full school on January 29.

Please don't leave getting your uniform to the last few days as it will be extremely busy and stocks will be depleted. Also, please bring your own bag when you come in to purchase items.

Click [here](#) for the Uniform Shop hours at the end of this year and for the first term next year.

You can contact the Lion's Den on 021 727 430 or email lionsdenuniforms@gmail.com

Sports update

Strong results at Condor 7s



MAGS had four teams taking part in the Condor 7s held at King's College last week, and they all exceeded expectations.

The Girls U15 side finished fifth at the national tournament, the U15 Boys lost their semi in golden point to finish third-equal, the Open Girls placed sixth, and the Open Boys finished third.

Equestrian team riding high



Congratulations to Sylvie Shackleton and Mia Cato, who were part of a Mount Albert Grammar/St Dominic's composite equestrian team that placed second out of 26 teams in the Secondary Schools Equestrian Cup held at Papatoetoe Pony Club on Wednesday. Sylvie, on Opal Winfrey, placed first and third in the Show Hunter class, and Mia, on BMW Tricini Rose, placed third and seventh in their class. The riders represented the school proudly and were each awarded a sash, a \$75 coaching voucher, and a saddle pad. The team was thrilled to discover they had tied for first place with another composite team (Rangitoto/Massey/Botany Downs) but were adjusted to second place based on their contributing scores.

Thank you to our committed riders and their parents, Anne Williams and Delia Cato, for taking the girls and their horses out for the event.

Rowers to the fore at club regatta



Last weekend at the Lake Karapiro club regatta MAGS crews rowing for the West End club made 14 A finals, including the Year 10 boys Cam MacGillivray, Nick Bryan, Dylan Cottingham, Samuel Cooper with cox Ben Campbell winning the Intermediate Coxed 4 Final.

The girls also did well with thirds in both the Intermediate Coxed Four and Eight, and second in the Novice Octuple Sculls.

Crews continue training during the holidays with the major Christmas regatta at Lake Karapiro starting next Friday with 2500 competitors expected from all over the North Island.

Coxswains, such as Bharathi Ramanathan pictured above, play an important role, steering and giving instructions to the crew. This season there are four new coxswains in the squad and there is always a need for more.

General Notices



Alberton December Market Day

A festive feeling will be in the air at the Alberton Market Day this Sunday, with traditional treats such as tarts and cake for sale as well as handmade decorations.

An array of specialty produce such as chocolate, olive oil, nuts, teas, preserves, honey and jams will provide perfect gifts for foodie friends and family.

At midday, gardener Debbie Siasm, of boutique plant nursery Puriri Lane, will be sharing 'Festive Styling Tips for your Christmas Table & Home' in a free demo. Foliage and materials to create your own décor at home will be for sale, along with old-fashioned cottage plants and botanically inspired giftware.

As always, there will be artisan street food stalls, Alberton's tearoom, live music, children's crafts and face-painting.

Alberton Market Day, Sunday 8 December 10am-2pm, free entry.



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