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December 8, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Key Dates

Finishing the Year With Excellence



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

The final newsletter of 2023 sees us offering our congratulations to all who received awards at the Year 9 and Year 10 Prizegivings earlier this week. Celebrating the academic success of our junior students has been a fitting way to cap off an outstanding year for the school.

There is a sense that we have regained momentum in the school community with engagement and achievement across our four pillars as strong as ever.

The resilience of our students has been impressive. They weathered (literally) a difficult start to the year with floods and cyclones threatening to derail learning programmes. Yet true to our motto – and not for the first time – they have triumphed over adversity.

Similarly, our teaching staff have been outstanding. The moving sands of education have been more pronounced than usual. The result has been uncertainty around changes to curriculum and assessment. And yet our staff have moved forward with purpose, remaining faithful to bringing out the best in our young people.

Thank you to all who have brought together the many moving parts of MAGS this year. We can look back with great satisfaction – but also with confidence in what 2024 will bring.

But for now, I trust families enjoy a time of refreshment over the Christmas period.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Monday, January 8

Lions' Den Uniform shop re-opens

Full hours [here](#)



Wednesday, 24 January

Year 8 Catch-up Testing,
8.45am

Thursday, 25 January

Senior Course Confirmation
(10.30am-12pm)

Wednesday, 31 January

Year 9s start school

Thursday, 1 February

Full school in

Sport

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

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



Fixtures and Results

Click [here](#)



Top Juniors celebrated



Our Junior Prizings on Tuesday wrapped up the academic year with students being recognised for their achievements. Students were awarded certificates and prizes in Year 10 then Year 9 ceremonies in the F.W. Gamble Hall, culminating in the special prizes.

Our Junior Duces for 2023 are Alodia Ke and Joshua Radcliffe, pictured above;



our Top Year 10s Isabella Caie and Jack Tyler, pictured right; Greg Cave and Elise Goddard Cup winners for Year 9 Academic Achievement are Alex Southgate and Elodie Hilton; Top Year 9s Olivia Appleton and Tahi Harris; Arts Duces Mahara Sialafau and Brooklynn Smith-Boyd; and Victor and Victrix Ludorum Lucas Cartwright and Anne-Theresa Napara.

The Paul Gardener Service Cup was awarded to Amy Burnett and Bao Nguyen, the Neville Watson Award went to Lily Rupapera (Year 9) and Joseph Fuimaono (Year 10), and the CC Lamb Award was presented to Johnny Gilmore and Frances Vehikite.

The MCs for the Year 9 event were Kaiya Sky and Kawiti Albert Campbell, while Naomi Chileshe and Connor Corby MC'ed the Year 10 ceremony. Both gatherings enjoyed a performance by the Magnophonics Jazz Ensemble directed by Kingsley Melhuish.

You can see more photos and all the prize-winners [here](#)



Staff awards wrap up the school year



Associate Principal Jo Williams was one of the recipients of the CP Liddell Staff Awards presented by Chris Liddell.

Prior to the Staff Christmas Brunch today, there was one final meeting in the staffroom for the presentation of awards to some of our well-deserving and hard-working teaching and support staff.

It was also a time to recognise some of our long-serving staff such as Brian Murphy, who has been at MAGS for 63 years apart from a brief stint in Canada.

Mr Murphy, pictured right, started at MAGS as a Science and Biology teacher in 1960, and

over the years he has taught Chemistry, been responsible for Junior Science, worked as a teacher-librarian and a school counsellor before becoming the school's Archivist in 1999.

Mr Murphy is finally retiring – although he insists he still has some work to finish.

His colleague Mr Cave, who now works as our Assistant Archivist after 'retiring' a few years ago, was also recognised for his 50 years of service to MAGS.

Our Academic Dean Mr Gibbs, who has also clocked up 50 years at MAGS, paid tribute to Mr Cave, who came to teach at MAGS in 1974 after being a student here from 1964-68.

His connections to MAGS begin back in 1923, when his father started as a pupil. Mr Cave's sons attended MAGS in the 1980s.

In his time teaching, Mr Cave, pictured below left with Mr Drumm, has taught eight different subjects – with a focus on Languages and Classics – and coached or managed five



different sports as well as managing the debating team.

When it came to the staff awards, these were read out by Mr Drumm and presented by our BoT chair Catherine Murphy, BoT member Greg Moyle and Albertian Chris Liddell.

PA to the Headmaster Annemarie Wright and English teacher Reuben Ploeg were named as the winners of the Herb Towers Staff Award for a professional development trip overseas. This award recognises outstanding service to MAGS.

The A Harmos Memorial Award went to Director of Boarding Daryl Cartwright and Year 11 Dean and Health and PE teacher Nik Coghill, who, of course, was coaching a sports team and couldn't be at the awards. These awards recognise staff who have been exceptional in supporting the school's mentoring programme.

The CP Liddell Staff Awards were presented to Associate Principal Jo Williams, Te Puna o Wairaka teacher Matua Peter Walters, HOD Dance Samantha French and Year 13 Dean and Biology teacher Dr Raechel Milich. These scholarships are worth \$10,000 each and recognise excellence in teaching and contribution to the school.





Matua Peter Walters and Dr Raechel Milich received CP Liddell Staff Awards from Chris Liddell.



The A Harmos Memorial Award was presented to Daryl Cartwright by Catherine Murphy, and Samantha French received the CP Liddell Staff Award.



Annemarie Wright and Reuben Ploeg were presented with the Herb Towers Staff Award by Greg Moyle.

Albertian admitted to the bar



Congratulations to Albertian Emma Moon (2014-2018), who was admitted to the bar as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court on November 24. Emma was accompanied at the ceremony by her proud parents Paul Moon, who is a member of our Board of Trustees, and Milica Zjajic-Moon, one of our Assistant Principals. Emma graduated from Auckland University of Technology with her Bachelor of Laws after four years of study.

Outdoor Ed hits the Kaimais



Last week, some Year 10 Outdoor Education students attended a four-day camp at Dickey Flat Adventure Camp in the northern end of the Kaimai Ranges. Throughout the camp, students remained within the same group of up to 11 students and one teacher. As a group, they participated in a range of activities chosen to personally challenge them, encourage them to work as part of their group and provide opportunities to further develop their transferable skills. Activities included tent camping, camp stove cooking, fly shelter set up and sleeping, river swimming, Adventure Based Learning (Cooperation, Communication and Problem Solving) activities, low rope activities, orienteering, river tubing, on and off track tramping, a night walk and a river traverse.



You can see a trip video on the Outdoor Education Instagram page [here](#)

Order 2024 stationery now and be in to win

Stationery can now be ordered for the 2024 school year.

And if you order in December, you will not only beat the rush but you will also be in with a chance to win \$1000.

You can find out more [here](#)



School closedown and reopening dates

Mount Albert Grammar School is now closed for the school holidays, apart from the International Office, which will close on Thursday, December 21.

The International Office will re-open on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

The Enrolment Office has closed and will re-open on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

The Student Centre and Finance Office have closed and will open again on the first day of school next year, Wednesday, 31 January, 2024.

The last day that the Lions' Den uniform shop will be open is Thursday, December 14 (3pm-6pm), and then reopens on Monday, January 8, 2024 (9am-1pm). Full Lions' Den hours can be seen [here](#)

Year 9s start school on Wednesday, 31 January, 2024, with the full school in on the next day – Thursday, 1 February.

Healthy habits over the holidays

We are at 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

Youth Mental Health Support:

Lowdown: 0800 111 757, TXT 1737. 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

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

www.netsafe.org.nz

Sexual Harm: HELP: 24/7 0800 623 1700, TXT 8236. www.helpauckland.org.nz

Eating Disorders: EDANZ: 0800 2330269. www.ed.org.nz

Order your 2023 Albertian now

Our Finance Department is 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](#)



The Albertian
2023


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.



MOUNT ALBERT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Homestay families required for Mount Albert Grammar School



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 for more information

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

Sports Update

Girls finish third at Condor 7s



Our Open Girls Sevens played the 2023 Condor 7s in Mount Maunganui after qualifying by winning the Auckland Secondary School 7s tournament.

On Day 1, our girls swept through their pool against Wesley College, Sacred Heart New Plymouth and Southland Girls.

On Day 2, a solid defensive effort saw the girls beat St Mary's College in the cup quarterfinal. This set up a semi-final encounter with Howick College. After a good start, which saw our girls go up 12-0, Howick College came back to win the game 26-12.

From there, our girls played Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt in the 3rd/4th playoff, winning 33-10 to claim third.

Danii Mafoe and Arlia McCarthy made the NZ U18 Girls Sevens team and the Condor Sevens Tournament Team.



Girls Futsal claim AKSS title



MAGS entered a mixed-year group Futsal girls team into the Auckland Secondary Schools Futsal Competition, which took place every Friday over Term 4.

The team consisted of four Year 9s, five Year 11s and three Year 12s.

Last Friday night the girls played in the semi against Glendowie and won that so played in the final straight afterwards against Diocesan.

The girls played an outstanding game against a tough Dio side and on the final whistle the score was 2-2. This meant that they went straight into penalties.

Coach Ms Inwood said, "The team showed fantastic courage and character and ended up taking the title. Well done to our Year 9s, who were fantastic playing against senior players and especially Samatha Gill, who saved four penalties.

Wrestlers heading overseas

Congratulations to Max Shallard (Year 12), who has been selected to represent New Zealand at the Oceania Wrestling Champs in Guam on February 4-8.

He will be heading up to Tokyo late January to train at Tokyo University with their wrestling team in preparation for the competition.

This is the second student who has been selected to represent New Zealand for Wrestling this year.

Sean Harding (Year 12) competed at the same competition at the start of this year. Sean will also be taking part in an exchange next year when he will attend one of America's top wrestling high schools for the first half of the year to help develop his wrestling ability.

A Tradition of Excellence

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland
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**EXCELLENCE
CONNECTION
& GROWTH**

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