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February 17, 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

## Our Core Purpose



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

Our top academic achievers from 2022 were celebrated this morning at our annual Scholars Assembly.

Current Year 13 students were joined by graduates from last year for the presentation of their Scholar Lion – a marker of academic excellence at MAGS.

There were 349 students who achieved their NCEA Certificate endorsed with Excellence last year. This outstanding success was further complemented by the 118 NZ Scholarships gained, which included a National Premier Award winner and two Outstanding Scholar Awards. The 15 students with three or more Scholarships will have their names embossed in gold on our honours board.

The remarkable academic success of our 2022 student cohort is a triumph over the challenges of recent years. All of these students have had to carry out much of their schooling under the cloud of Covid. They have remained faithful to their studies. Their resilience and determination is an example to us all.

Congratulations to our Scholar Lion recipients and congratulations to your parents and teachers who share in your success. Thank you for reinforcing our academic pillar as the core business of MAGS.

Our thoughts continue to be with our fellow Kiwis who have suffered loss in the recent weather events.

Patrick Drumm

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

### Wednesday, February 22

Athletics Championships,  
Lovelock Track

### Thursday, February 23

Year 9 Parent/Mentor Teacher  
Evening, 6.15pm, F.W. Gamble  
Hall

### Friday, February 24

Senior Leadership  
Assembly, F.W. Gamble Hall,  
2.25pm

## Sport

### Photo Essays



MAGS Swimming Sports  
Championships

Click [here](#)

Headmaster



Cricket Boys 1st XI v Takapuna  
Grammar

Click [here](#)

**Trials and Registrations**

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



## Celebrating academic excellence



*Mr Drumm is pictured with two of our top achievers in the 2022 Scholarship Exams: Deboprana Mallick (Premier Scholar Award) and Karen Zheng (Outstanding Scholar Award).*

Today we welcomed back many of our top Albertian academics to celebrate their and the school's success in Scholarship and NCEA exams last year.

The event, MC'ed by Head Prefects Olivia Bennett and Taiarahia Moataane-Mika, was attended by Year 13s and saw the presentation of Scholar Lions to our top academic achievers in Year 12 and Year 13 last year as well as recognition of those who excelled in Scholarship.

Citations were read by Academic Dean Wariwck Gibbs for the 15 students who earned three or more Scholarships and whose names will go up on our Honours Board.

Guest of honour was Brian McMath, who presented the June Gray Scholarship to Vivienne Hei Man Wong. Mr McMath and Vivienne are pictured right with Mr Dumm.



There was also a musical performance, with Violani Afoa wowing the audience with her rendition of the Randy Newman song *Almost There*, accompanied by Celestine Howard on piano.

You can see more photos and all the Scholar Lion awardees and Honours Board student profiles from today's event [here](#) and read more about our Scholarship results [here](#)



Many of our top Albertian academics returned to MAGS today to celebrate their success in Scholarship Exams.

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## Pair win aviation awards



Congratulations to two MAGS students who have had outstanding success in their pursuit of aviation qualifications.

In January, former student Lukasz Swain (top left) and current Year 13 Elliot Kitchener (top right) attended the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School in Matamata after receiving scholarships from Rotary New Zealand.

Both started their aviation studies through Gateway at MAGS.

As a result of this course, Lukasz has won the prestigious Walsh Trophy, the first time a Rotary student has received this award since 2014. He also won a \$1250 flying award for the best all-round student in flying and exams and leadership, the top Air New Zealand Group award of \$5000 worth of flying toward his private pilot licence, a B787 Simulator training experience, plus a 'work experience day'. This prize was awarded by Grant Reidy of Air NZ "for a student with a strong desire to have a career flying for Air New Zealand".

Elliot Kitchener won the ASPEQ Award of \$1500 towards flight training. This is awarded to a highly motivated student with a desire to progress towards a private pilot licence.

Both also received their 'wings' for their first solo flights – awarded by Sarah Blyde, Project Engineer for Rocket Lab.

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## Use the MAGS App for instant alerts

Parents and students are urged to download the MAGS App to get instant alerts about school news and events.

Major school announcements, such as closures, will always be emailed to parents but this process is slower than receiving an alert via the app, which is free from the App Store or Google Play

MAGS parents can instantly access school announcements, Daily Notices, the Kamar portal, teachers' contact details, and notify the School if your child is absent. When notifying absences, you need to load your child's Student ID number. You should only need to do this once, and this helps us record absences more easily.

Parents and students can check the School Calendar and sync chosen events with their own Calendar, and choose Groups about which they wish to receive Alert Notifications.

There are links to the MAGS Newsletter, Sports, Maps, and more ...

Search for "SchoolAppsNZ", and load the app on to your phone. You can then search for and add as many schools as you want so you can receive alerts form multiple schools. If you are having trouble with this, click [here](#) to see how.



## Tuck Shop service ... coming soon



As most are aware, our MAGS Tuck Shop closed last year because of the building site and the fact that the old Tuck Shop building is due for demolition.

We are pleased to advise that we have been working with our previous Tuck Shop providers, Libelle, to be able to offer their services to our students again this year.

There is a Libelle catering caravan on-site and the current plan is to have this operational for Week 5, to offer both online and over-the-counter food sales.

This is a heads-up at this stage, and more specific details regarding menu options and how online orders can be made will be provided as soon as they are available.

We are looking forward to welcoming Libelle back to MAGS.

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## Centenary Eight appeal

In our Centenary year, MAGSROW is seeking donations for The Centenary Eight Fund to purchase a New Zealand-made skiff for our women's eight. Purchasing this boat signals our commitment to the development of our female athletes and recognises the incredible achievements of our female crews in recent seasons, including qualifying for the A Final in the Girls Under-18 Coxed Eight event at the 2022 Maadi Cup national rowing championships. You can sign up as a supporter [here](#) or read more more about the appeal [here](#)



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## Year 9 Parent / Mentor Teacher Evening



Next Thursday evening, Year 9 Parents will have the chance to meet their child's Mentor Teacher.

Parents should be in the F.W. Gamble Hall at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. There will be an introduction to MAGS by Headmaster Patrick Drumm before parents join mentor teachers (and Peer Support Leaders) in a classroom for further explanation about subjects and the machinery of the School.

Year 9 students are welcome to attend with their parents, too.

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## Opportunities for all students in the Arts

There are sign-ups and musters happening for any students interested in taking part in a wide variety of Arts groups:

### **Niuean and Chinese groups for Unity Concert**

If you are a Niuean student interested in helping form a Niuean group for Unity or you would like to find out about being part of the Chinese group, please contact Director of Arts Ms Cesan [jcesan@mags.school.nz](mailto:jcesan@mags.school.nz)

### **Year 9 Drama Academy**

If you are a Year 9 student interested in joining Year 9 Drama Academy before school, please contact Ms Hughes [chughes@mags.school.nz](mailto:chughes@mags.school.nz)

**GROUP MUSTERS for all those students interested – Week 4 (20-24 February)**

### **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEB**

#### **THEATRESPORTS**

WHEN: 3.15

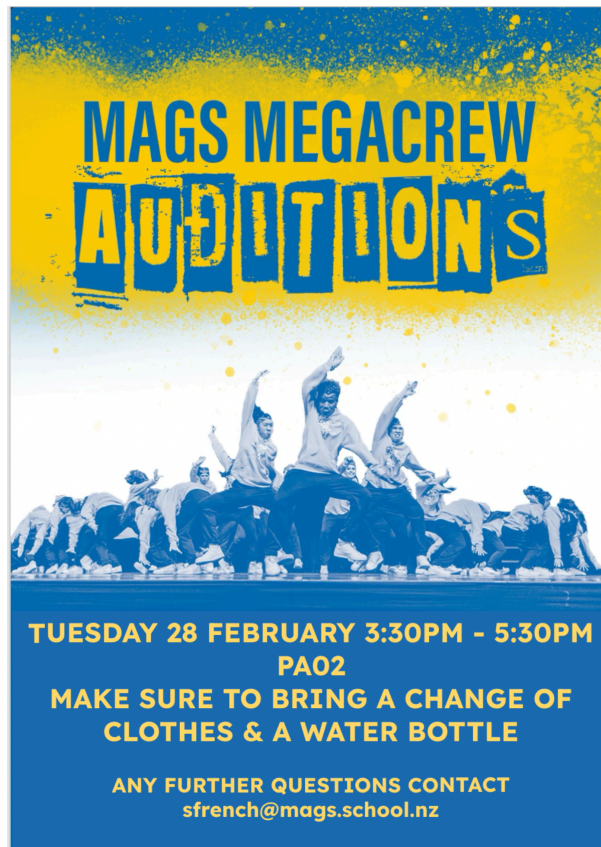
WHERE: P03

### **TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEB**

#### **JAZZ BAND AND JUNIOR JAZZ BAND SIGN-UPS**

WHEN: Lunchtime

WHERE: E10



**ART FOR THE PLANET MOVEMENT GROUP**

WHEN: Lunchtime

WHERE: E2

**MAGS MEGACREW**

WHEN: 3.30PM

WHERE: PA02 DANCE ROOM

**WEDNESDAY 22ND FEB**

**CHOIR MUSTER**

**CENTENNIAL BOYS CHOIR**

WHEN: Interval

WHERE: Hall

**GLORIANA GIRLS CHOIR -**

WHEN: 3.15PM

WHERE : Hall



**SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE**

WHEN: 3.10

WHERE: DRAMA ROOM P

Please check year announcements classroom pages for more details or for clarification  
contact Director of Arts

Ms Cesan: [jcesan@mags.school.nz](mailto:jcesan@mags.school.nz)

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## Japanese professors assess teaching





Today MAGS welcomed a delegation of four top Japanese university professors who were here to observe our lessons in the Languages Department. They were here to learn the way we teach conversational Japanese to our students, and are delegates of the Japanese Government, which is considering implementing interaction with NZ schools as part of their curriculum in Japan.

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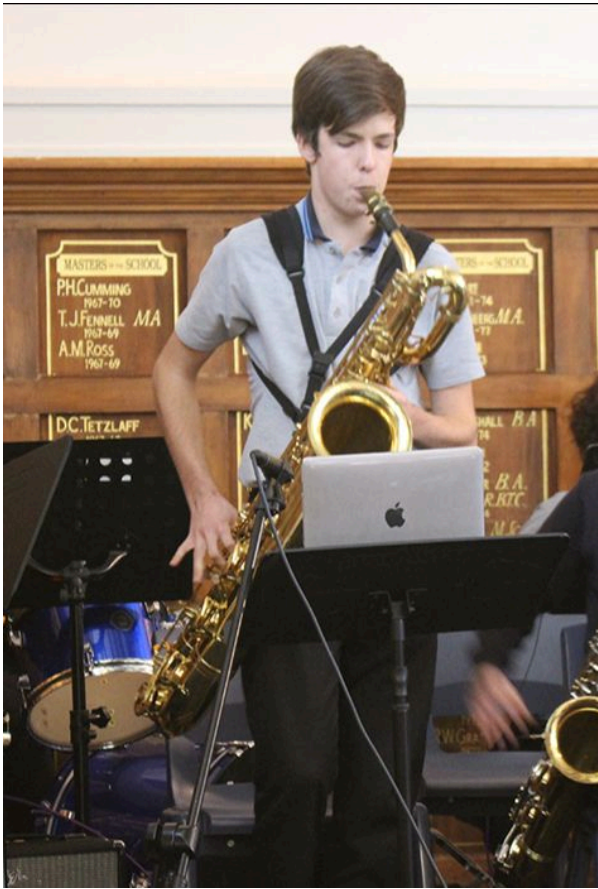
## Relay for Life sign-up next Friday



Next Friday (February 24) there is Relay for Life Sign-Up Meeting in Gym 2 at Lunchtime. This year's event is taking place from 10am to 10pm on Saturday, April 1 at AUT's Millennium Stadium on the North Shore. Relay for Life raises money for the work of the Cancer Society.

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## Sign up for music lessons online



Students can now sign up online for music lessons for one of the following instruments: Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Drums & Percussion, Guitar, Singing (Vocals), Bass Guitar, Flute, Saxophone, Trombone, Clarinet, Oboe, Trumpet, French Horn, Tuba

The Music Lessons Registration Form is [here](#)

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**More historical images on website**

## THE CHEERING PARTY.



This photograph is part of Historical Images Set 82 on our website and shows a group of supporters in 1949 cheering on the School's First VIII rowing crew, who went on to win the Head of Harbour event. This item was a gift of Lew Beck in 2005. You can see more historical images like this [here](#)

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## Sports Update

### Huge numbers at Swimming Champs



Yesterday, we hosted our annual Swimming Sports Championships at the Mt Albert Aquatic Centre, with a big increase in entries and some exceptional performances. Personal best times were achieved by many of our school's top swimmers, and two school records were broken by Hunter Dobson in the 200m Freestyle (1:57.57) and the 50m Backstroke (27.03), after a stellar year in the pool in 2022 which saw Hunter win multiple national age group medals as well as represent New Zealand at the 2022 Junior Pan-Pacific Championships.

Our swimming champions are Bianca Chan (Junior Girls), Olivia Wheeler (Intermediate Girls), Anna McGowan (Senior Girls), Tarquinius Schwalger (Junior Boys), Palepua Afoa (Intermediate Boys), Tito Tipi (Senior Boys).

The MAGS Aquatic Team this year will consist of around 20 swimmers and looks forward to competing at the following events: CSA Zonal Championships, CSA Champ of Champs, CSA Individual Championships, and the NZ Secondary School Championships.

MAGS Aquatic Director Mitchell Nairn said, "We are excited to see this group of talented swimmers represent their school moving forward into the school year for 2023."

He added, "Congratulations also to the MAGS 'Day Boys' relay team who beat the MAGS 'House Boys' in an epic battle at the end of the swimming sports."

You can see more photos [here](#) all the results [here](#)

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## More success in Waka Ama

MAGS students enjoyed plenty of success representing their clubs at the Waka Ama National Championships at Lake Karapiro in late January.

Marnie Toloa (pictured below right) claimed bronze in the U16 500m W1 final behind two other World Champ finalists.

She also completed at U19 level and was part of the W12 500m winning team, taking gold in the double hulled event.

LaRome Waihirere steered his team to victory in the U16 W6 1000m turn event final to take gold, and his team took silver in the U16 W6 final. He was also part of the U16 W12 500m team that claimed gold.

Marlin Toloa competed at U16 level in the W1 event and took bronze behind the current World Champion, and Worlds runner-up, setting a Personal Best.

He also won the U19 men's

250m sprint final as a wildcard. His W6 team took silver in the 1000m turns event.

Marlin and his team also claimed gold in the U16 W6 500m.

Chase Hartley and Tawhai Kaipō also competed and both returned solid results,



**Keep an eye out for registrations for Waka Ama, which should be up soon on our Trials and Registrations page on the MAGS website [here](#)**

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## Upcoming Premier Sport



The Volleyball Premier Boys have two games today at Rangitoto College, the first at 4pm against Rangitoto and the second at 5pm against Sir Edmund Hillary College.

Tomorrow, the Cricket Boys 1st XI play away to Auckland Grammar, starting at 10.30am.

On Monday, the Cricket Girls 1st XI are at home to St Kentigern College at 4.15pm, while

the Touch Premier Mixed side play at Cornwall Park against Howick College (4.15pm) and Rutherford College (6pm).

On Tuesday, the Cricket Boys 1st XI play a T20 game at home against Takapuna Grammar at 4pm.

On Wednesday, the Cricket Girls 1st XI are at home to Westlake Girls at 4.15pm.

You can see more fixtures and results [here](#)

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

A Tradition of Excellence

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