



Week 1, Term 1, February 2, 2018 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Excitement in the air



The anticipation and excitement of the new school year has been palpable this week as students and staff moved into full swing for 2018.

A special welcome to students and families joining our community for the first

time. Powhiri has become a traditional part of the MAGS induction for our new Year 9 students.

As our students entered the FW Gamble Hall, they were reminded of this building being a place of gathering for MAGS students since 1926. Many have gone before them – and many are honoured in gold on panels around the Hall. Yet the educational journey of this year's group carries a point of difference from those earlier generations with our new Year 9 students destined to emerge as leaders of our school in 2022 – our Centennial year! What an honour and responsibility for our newest Albertians!

Thank you to our parent community for entrusting MAGS with your sons and daughters. Choosing a secondary school is a significant decision for parents and we look forward to a productive partnership and growing the good young people of MAGS in the time ahead.

I look forward to seeing the safe return of students next Wednesday. Enjoy the weekend and Waitangi Day.

Patrick Drumm

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

[Click here for the 2018 Calendar](#)

Monday, February 5 and Waitangi Day, Tuesday, February 6
School is closed.

Monday, February 12
Senior Leadership Assembly

Tuesday, February 13
Year 9 Parent Form Teacher Evening

Wednesday, February 14
School swimming sports



Sport

Don't miss out on registration and trials for summer and winter sports



[Click here](#)

Year 9s' big welcome

On Tuesday, Year 9s had their first day at school and the school to themselves, and were welcomed with a powhiri in the hall.

Headmaster Patrick Drumm welcomed the students, saying there were exciting times ahead especially as they will graduate as Year 13 students at the end of 2022 – MAGS' centennial year.



He also outlined The MAGS Way to the new entrants before they were assigned to their form classes and teachers.

Year 13 Peer Support Leaders spent the rest of the day helping students get to know the layout of the school and what was expected of them.

The full school was in on Wednesday to start what promises to be another busy term.

[For more photos click here](#)

MAGnet powhiri

On Thursday, Year 12 students involved in the MAGnet programme were welcomed to Unitec with a powhiri at the campus marae. Among those greeting them were a group of Year 13 students who were part of last year's MAGnet programme.

Selected students spend one day a week at Unitec, and four days at MAGS undertaking a dedicated, hands-on course in either Building Skills or Automotive Engineering that complements their chosen vocational pathway.

At Unitec they will learn how apprenticeships work and how to connect with them.

The Unitec course and school subjects all offer credits toward NCEA Level 2.



For students interested in apprenticeships, looking to undertake tertiary study or training on the job, NCEA Level 2 is the minimum needed to show they have the skills, competencies and knowledge valued in the workplace.

MAGnet students may return to MAGS for Year 13 and the opportunity to do a Level 3 course with Unitec, and then, if a vocational pathway appeals, continue with an apprenticeship or tertiary course fulltime on leaving school.

Experience on a MAGnet course also gives preferential entry to Unitec's training programmes and courses.

For more information, contact Deputy Principal Fiona Barker fbarker@mags.school.nz

Computer science for Year 12s

Year 12 students have a great opportunity to study computer science at Unitec this year.



MAGS in partnership with Unitec is offering a free one-semester course (approximately two terms) in Computer Science starting on Thursday, February 15. Students will then attend whole-day classes every Thursday after that at Unitec's computer labs.

The course is hands-on with students learning programming, networking and digital media skills. It covers website design and development, how to implement a local area network for a home, and designing an advanced computer programme.

As well as gaining Level 2 Achievement Standards (12 credits), students can start a journey towards a career as a Computer Programmer, Digital Designer, Game Developer, Network Administrator, or jobs in Information Technology, Cyber Security or open up a variety of other pathways.

The course, which follows on from a pilot programme run in partnership with Unitec last year, also allows students to challenge themselves in a tertiary environment and build relationships with tech companies.

There are limited places available. Anyone interested should contact Deputy Principal Fiona Barker fbarker@mags.school.nz

Reminder about shortened school days

Students have all now experienced their first full school day on timetable that coincided, due to the rain burst that hit the city yesterday, with the need to call the first Shortened Lunchtime.

This means lunchtime is shortened by 20 minutes to protect our students from extremes of weather conditions caused by rain, heat or wind and any issues associated with being outside at these times.

This results in the school day ending at 2.50pm and parents and caregivers are advised via the school app when a shortened day occurs.

School buses continue to run to their usual schedules and students are able to wait in the school hall until the normal school finish time of 3.10pm.

Parents and caregivers are reminded:

- Alberton Avenue can become a bottleneck for traffic at both ends of the school day.
- There are school buses arriving from up and down the road.
- Vehicles are not permitted into the school grounds to pick up students.

- A pick-up location that is a sensible distance from the school gates should be arranged with your child(ren).

Your assistance with keeping the school entrance and exit points safe for the student body is greatly appreciated.

BYOD orientation

Year 9 students should not bring their devices until they are scheduled for their BYOD orientation lesson as per the timetable of form classes below.



Week 2:

Wednesday, February 7: 9IRE, 9PLW, 9PHR

Thursday, February 8: 9RPY, 9JTN, 9PTI, 9NHA

Friday, February 9: EngLang2, EngLang3, 9CGL, 9GDE, 9DBH

Week 3: Monday, February 12: 9KNA

New students in Years 10-12 should have brought their device from their first day on Wednesday and have come to ICT in L Block at interval or lunchtime to access their logins and other BYOD information.

Download the MAGS app



If you haven't already, make sure you download the Mount Albert Grammar School app for notices, events and other important school messages.

Use the app to notify us of your child's absence, contact a teacher, access the parent portal and link to maps and key websites. Receive alert messages instantly for your chosen groups.

To download the app for free on iPhone or Android click this link.

<http://mountalbertgrammarschool.apps.school.nz/share/>

Arts update

There are many opportunities to get involved in the Arts this term.



Ensure that you have the MAGS app on your phone so you can check notices as there are many auditions and meetings over the next two weeks.

MAGS' Hip Hop Megacrew auditions are on next Wednesday, the same day that Theatresports have a muster at Interval. Cultural Groups will also be meeting next week as PolyFest is looming in March.

For any inquiries regarding Arts co curricular events or groups, please contact Jacqui Cesan (Director Arts Co Curricular)

jcesan@mags.school.nz 09 846 2044 x 8226

Sports update

MAGS' Junior Black Sox

The New Zealand U19 Junior Black Sox Softball Team have named three MAGS Year 13 boys in the 2018 team: Floyd Nola and Taine Slaughter, pictured right, along with Max Earley who is a non-travelling reserve.



The team will travel to Canada in July to compete in the Junior Men's World Series.

Max Earley and Brock Evans have been named in the NZ U17 Boys Softball Team. They will attend a training camp in April and also play against an Australian selection team. They will also travel to Queensland in July.

The NZ Softball National Championships featured a number of MAGS players representing Auckland through the boys grades with some excellent results.

The MAGS Senior Premier Boys start their season on Monday, February 12 and will be attending the NZ Secondary School Championships in March.

For a full rundown of MAGS' boys results while representing Auckland at the national championships, [please click here](#)

Rowers' great results

Last weekend saw the combination of Cambridge Town Cup and North Island Club Champs in a regatta at Lake Karapiro that spanned four days - Friday through Monday. MAGSRow travelled down to the lake on Thursday morning so it was a five-day away trip, finishing on Auckland Anniversary Day.

In sweltering temperatures of over 30C our rowers managed to sweep and scull against massive competition to qualify for the largest number of A finals in MAGSRow's history.

Over the combined regattas, in A finals the rowers won: 4 x 2nd placings and 2 x 3rd placings.

The Club Champs rewarded first, second and third placings with medals, and MAGS rowers were fortunate to win two silver.

[For results click here:](#)

Ruby Young named in NZSS netball squad



Year 13 student Ruby Young, pictured far left, has been named in a 23-strong New Zealand Secondary Schools netball squad that was announced following the National Development Camp in Cambridge last week. Halaevalu Toutaiolepo, also pictured, has been named as a reserve.

NZSS coach Mary-Jane Araroa said a final team would be named after the NZ Age Group Championships in July in the build-up to matches against the Australian Under-17 squad in Canberra in September.

"We are excited with what we have seen at the National Development Camp and opted to name a squad at this time to enable us to monitor and track these athletes over the next six months," she said.

Registrations for Term 1 events now open



Students are encouraged to register for summer sports events taking place early in Term 1, 2018.

They include the MAGS Swimming and Athletics Days, AKSS Triathlon and Aquathon Championships and Football, Hockey and Netball team trials.

[Click here for the registration forms](#)

General notices

Market Day at Alberton

Following a break in January, Alberton's Market Days resume on Sunday, February 11. Come along to pick-up fruit, honey, preserves, nuts and nut butters, bread and baked goods and coffee. Some of Auckland's best street food stalls will provide tempting options for brunch or lunch.



Children will marvel at the incredible balloon-twisting brilliance of Twisted Faces and love the animals (baby goat, ducklings, chicks, rabbits, guinea pigs and turtles) in a mini-farm.

In two free sessions at 11am and 12:30pm, Judy from The Compost Collective will present a workshop on composting, bokashi and worm-farming. Participants who register in advance or on the day will receive \$40 off their system of choice, thanks to the Auckland Council.

As always there will be music, a huge hamper giveaway, and tea and scones on the verandah, served from the vintage china.

Alberton Market Day – Sunday, February 11, 10am-2pm. Free entry. Rain or shine. Discounted admission to the house (\$8 adults, children free).

Adobe Creative Cloud offer

Adobe Creative Cloud device licences are once again available to our students for an annual fee. The cost for 2018 will be \$48. The deadline for orders is February 9, 2018.

The purchase of Adobe Creative Cloud is not required, but access on a home computer provides students studying NCEA courses in Art Design, Photography and Media Studies with a significant advantage. The software is also useful for many other subjects and for students of all year levels.

[Click here for information on how to order](#)



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