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A Tradition of Excellence
9th-14th May 2022



January 29, 2021 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

[Weekly Notices](#)

Our 100th Year – A Time of Confidence



[Key Dates](#)

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



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

A warm welcome back to Mount Albert Grammar School for 2021 and special greetings to all who join the MAGS community for the first time.

We return to school after the luxury of a 'normal' Christmas Holiday break which has been the envy of the rest of the world.

Tuesday, February 2

Year 9s only start school

Wednesday, February 3

Full school starts

Monday, February 8

Waitangi Day holiday observed – school closed

As our students walk back through our gates next week, they can take great confidence both from what we have overcome as a country over the past 12 months and from what we have achieved as a school in 2020.

Our provisional NCEA results are stunning, with MAGS students performing well in excess of national averages. Congratulations to our students who rose above the challenges of last year to achieve easily our best ever results as a school. Your resolve and hard work, along with that of your teachers, has been justly rewarded!

Our 100th year as a school promises to be a time of 'rebound' – one in which students will return stronger from the 2020 experience.

I look forward to meeting new faces and working with the great people of MAGS in the time ahead.

Enjoy the Anniversary Weekend.



Sport



Sports registrations for 2021

Click [here](#)

Gearing up for 100th year



MAGS Senior Leadership Team members – back row, from left: Mr Stradwick, Ms Hayes, Mrs Cato, Mr Powell and Mr Todd. Front row, from left: Ms Hayat, Ms Williams, Mr Drumm, Ms Rose and Mr Murdoch.

The past week has seen staff preparing to welcome students back next week for a milestone 100th year of schooling at MAGS.

In the new year, there will be some slight changes to the Senior Leadership Team, with Christine Cato and Toby Powell coming in as acting deputy principals while Ms Hayat and Mr Murdoch are on leave to complete their Masters degrees.

Mr Murdoch will be on leave for terms 1 and 2, while Ms Hayat will be on leave all year but will still be working two days a week as Leader of the Mt Albert Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning).

You can read more about the Senior Leadership team [here](#)

On Thursday, MAGS held a Full Staff Administration Day at Unitec to set the agenda for the coming year and introduce new staff (pictured below) to their peers.

Headmaster Patrick Drumm outlined the theme for the day – Head and Heart – which translated to driving academic excellence by engaging with students on a personal level.

Mr Drumm said MAGS' outstanding NCEA results across all levels in a trying year showed that teachers had done an incredible job throughout the school.

During the day, there were presentations by Dr Elizabeth Rata, of the University of Auckland, who spoke about the Knowledge Rich Curriculum aimed at improving academic knowledge, and by John Cowan, of the Parenting Place, who spoke about challenges

facing young people, and strategies for teachers to improve their productivity, effectiveness and happiness.



Peer Support ready to go



This week saw Peer Support training get underway with 170 students and 18 staff giving up holiday time to get involved in activities and discussions aimed at making them effective and empathetic leaders and team members.

In growing the program and the support for our Year 9s by their Year 13 peers, MAGS is hoping to build on the support/mentoring already in place.

At the start of the year, each Year 9 class has several Peer Support Leaders assigned to it.

The Year 13s meet their Year 9 charges on their first day at school, which is next Tuesday, to help the classmates get to know each other and show them around the campus.

They stay in touch with their class throughout the Year 9s' first year (and beyond) to ensure they feel safe, happy and confident to ask for help if they need it.

Peer Support Leaders help juniors to develop personal skills, including listening and communicating, recognising and combating negative peer pressure, and improving their self-esteem.



Starting at MAGS 2021

The image shows the cover of a booklet titled "Starting at MAGS 2021 Student Information Booklet". At the top left is the Mount Albert Grammar School crest, which features a lion holding a shield. To the right of the crest, the text "MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL" is written in white capital letters on a blue background. Below this is a photograph of the school building, a large, light-colored stone structure with multiple windows and a central entrance. A tall palm tree is visible on the left side of the building. At the bottom of the cover, the title "Starting at MAGS 2021" is written in large, white, bold letters, and below it, "Student Information Booklet" is written in smaller white text on a dark blue background.

Last week, parents and caregivers should have received an email, which you can read [here](#), about starting school next week, and last year should have received the booklet *Starting at MAGS 2021* to help students make a smooth start to the new school year. It contains information about school rules and expectations, contact details, stationery, uniform and key dates. You can download the booklet by clicking [here](#)

The Mount Albert Grammar School [website](#) also has comprehensive information about the school, and there are also updates about school events, links to newsletters and photo essays on our [Facebook](#) page, as well as photos of school life on our [Instagram](#) page.

Keep up to date with the School App

Keep up to date with the MAGS app – free from the App Store or Google Play. 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 from multiple schools. MAGS parents can access school newsletters (under 'Links'), Daily Notices, the Kamar portal, teachers' contact details, and notify the school about absences.

If you are using the app to notify the school about absences, please load and use the child's Student ID Number as this helps to log absences more effectively.

On the app, parents and students can check the School Calendar and sync events with their own calendars, and choose groups about which they wish to receive alerts.



BYOD Orientation for new students

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

Year 9 students will find out their mentor class name on their first day: Tuesday, 2 February. Students in Te Puna o Wairaka and SIAPO will also be told which class below applies to them for BYOD orientation on their first day.

Week 1:

Wednesday, 3 February: 09BTL, 09GDE, 09ROB

Thursday, 4 February: 09GRC, 09KMR

Friday, 5 February: 09BEL, 09PTI, 09DVD, 09STR

Week 2:

Monday, 8 February: Public Holiday

Tuesday, 9 February: 09JOH, 09JAD, 09ARC, 09HGH

Wednesday, 10 February: 09BLY, 09SIG, 09CLV

Thursday, 11 February: 09IRE, 09DNR, 09KNA, 09ABS

Friday, 12 February: 09CVN, 09FAU, 09WSN

New students in Years 10-13 should bring their device from their second day – Thursday, 4 February – and come to ICT in L Block at interval or lunchtime or as directed by a teacher to access their logins and other BYOD information.

Students at all levels will be expected to bring their own device to assist with learning in the classroom.

Full information about this is on our school website [here](#)

If you have any queries, please email Mrs Elise Goddard, the Director of E-Learning, egoddard@mags.school.nz

Stationery can still be ordered now

If you haven't already ordered your back to school stationery, then we strongly encourage you to order now so that your child can bring their stationery to school within the first week or so of Term 1. MAGS' student stationery lists are published on the OfficeMax MySchool website and are available to view [here](#). If you prefer, you can also call the OfficeMax MySchool team on 0800 724 440, Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm to place an order. Free delivery on orders over \$46 although terms and conditions apply. See myschool.co.nz for details.

DECEMBER 2020

OfficeMax MySchool

get back to school ready!

Don't leave it too late, 5 minutes is all it takes

Get in now and order your back to school stationery before the team of 5 million get home from holiday!

We've already done the hard work for you. Your child's class list is loaded and ready to go. Just jump on to myschool.co.nz.

Simply add your details, check that you want everything on the list, then click and confirm - and we'll get your delivery underway.

Free Gift*

A4 Magnetic Family Organiser

Get this helpful free gift when you place your order in December and you'll be well organised all year long!

* While stocks last, terms & conditions apply

Pay now or in easy instalments.

You can pay by internet banking, credit cards or debit cards. For those who would rather not part with too much cash before Christmas, we've partnered with LayBuy*, so you can pay in 6 weekly, interest-free instalments - and still get your order right away.

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* See myschool.co.nz/laybuy for terms and conditions. Please note: School donations and charges will be charged when you place your order. You cannot use Laybuy* to pay for school donations and charges.

Get it now or choose when we deliver.

Whether you want your order signed, sealed and delivered before you head off on your family holiday in December, or you'd rather have it delivered when you get home - the OfficeMax elves will magically make it happen.

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Get school ready faster

International students holiday programme



The impact of COVID-19 in 2020 resulted in our MAGS International students not being able to go home to their family and friends over the holidays. However, the closed borders gave them the opportunity to experience a 'Kiwi Summer' for the first time. Some took part in volunteering within the community and in conservation. Some students took English courses or took part in student travel programmes. Many participated in the MAGS International Student Activity Programme of which some of the highlights were strawberry picking (left), climbing to the top of Rangitoto, visiting the Tip Top Ice cream factory and visiting Arataki Visitors Centre (above) to name a few.

Historical photos

As an Intermediate TeRina Keenan threw 39.65m in the Discus in 2005. The Senior Champion in that year threw just 26.73m.

TeRina won an Athletic Scholarship to the University of Hawaii, and she still holds MAGS shot put and discus records.

This photo is part of Set 56, recently added to Historical Images on the MAGS website [here](#)

These images are sourced and annotated by our Archivist Brian Murphy.



Sign up to the Centenary database



As we get closer to our Centenary in 2022, with events planned for May 9-14, we warmly invite all Albertians to sign up to the database [here](#) to keep up to date with information 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.

Sports Update

Three Golds at NZSS Athletics

Three MAGS athletes came away with Gold medals from the New Zealand Secondary School Athletics Nationals in Tauranga in mid-December, while the other two members of the team claimed Bronze medals.

Zayyaan Smith (pictured) won the Junior Girls Long Jump, with her best jump of 5.61m.

Hannah Adye came first in a competitive Senior Girls Pole Vault. She won on countback with all three placegetters clearing 3.50m. Hannah was the first to clear the previous height of 3.40m, giving her the national title.

Luke Clements ended the meet with a brilliant run in the 2000m Steeplechase. After taking the lead during the second lap, he powered his way to the finish line, winning by 11 seconds. With a time of 6:03.38, he once again broke his own school record.

Luke also competed in the Senior Boys 3000m, winning his heat and qualifying for the final. The final was a tough race and while Luke finished 10th, in the process he broke his own school Intermediate age group record with a time of 8:53.90.

Ben Skelton was competing in the Senior Boys Discus for the first time after being in the junior section for the previous two years. He finished with a Bronze medal with a throw of 47.49m. In the process, he broke a school record for the Intermediate Boys age group that had been standing since 1962.

Troy Middleton performed well throughout all the stages of the Senior Boys 400m progression, running faster in each race. He finished 3rd in his heat and 2nd in the semi-final, qualifying for the final. In the final he ran a personal best of 50.03 to finish third.



Sports registrations for 2021



MAGS' Sports Department has opened up online registrations for all sports for Terms 1 to 3.

The online form includes likely costs and dates where possible, although these could be subject to change.

Trial and training dates will be confirmed closer to the time.

Students can click [here](#) to register for their chosen sport.

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