



From the Headmaster

Proud of our NZ Qualification



The National Certificate of Educational Achievement is now into its seventeenth year as New Zealand's National School Qualification.

Mount Albert Grammar School has been part of the evolution of this qualification from its inception in 2002. There has often been uncertainty and controversy on this journey – and not without cause.

During this time NCEA has provided many hundreds of thousands of young people with a pathway after school into the tertiary sector and the workforce. But this improved academic success has cost our schools in other areas.

The unreasonable internal assessment loading facing today's school student, and indeed teachers, impacts daily on our goal of providing a broad learning experience. A senior student at MAGS can face up to 40 high-stakes internal assessments across an academic year – and this before they move into the end-of-year external examinations!

At MAGS, our academic pillar will always take priority but the school cannot stand on the one pillar alone. Arts, Sport and Service provide the critical breadth to growing good young people ... when our four pillars are strong, our school is strong!

It is with real concern that the recently proposed changes to NCEA signal an increase to internal assessment for Levels 1, 2 and 3 – particularly when schools were expecting the opposite to be revealed.

Such changes would further threaten the balance and breadth of the type of education offered at MAGS.

During the review period ahead, many Headmasters and Principals will be advocating for a significant reduction in internal assessments for senior students. It will be important for the Ministry to listen.

The proposed changes in their current form threaten to undermine

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

[Click here for the 2018 Calendar](#)

Monday, June 4

Queen's Birthday holiday

Wednesday, June 6

Last day of Year 11 exams

Thursday, 7 June &

Friday, 8 June

Ngā Manu Kōrero ki Te Waitemata regional speech competition, Ngāti Whātua o Ōrakei Marae



Sport



Photo Essay

Lacrosse Premier Girls v Diocesan

[Click here](#)

Registration and trials for summer and winter sports

[Click here](#)

Fixtures and results

[Click here](#)

NCEA. If we are to be truly proud of our national qualification it must be credible and manageable for students and teachers.

Enjoy the long weekend.

Patrick Drumm

Breakfast speakers announced



Bernice Mene and Pio Terei have been announced as guest speakers for the Parent-Daughter and Parent-Son breakfasts respectively. Ms Mene is a former Silver Ferns captain and netball commentator who has also taught at MAGS in the past and helped set up the Netball Academy. She will speak at the Parent-Daughter Breakfast for Year 9 & 13 students on Thursday, June 21.



Entertainer and performer Pio

Terei is also a presenter and spokesperson for The Parenting Place, which develops education programmes for parents and families. He will speak at the Inaugural Parent-Son Breakfast for Year 9 & 13 students on Thursday, June 28.

Both events have been kindly sponsored by Anne Duncan Real Estate and will be held at MAGS in the Maurice Hall Atrium, with tickets \$40 for one student and one adult.

An email with details about payment options should have been sent out to parents of Year 9 and 13 students. For further inquiries, email Martin Sykes msykes@mags.school.nz

Motutapu restoration champions



Last Sunday, the MAGS Environment Club took part in the first of four planting days for 2018 on Motutapu Island. Thirty students travelled by ferry out to the island with Mr Ashby, Ms Dunham and Ms Slabbert to contribute to the massive restoration project taking place on the island. It is unique for an island of its size in that it is totally free of introduced mammalian pests, making it a true “Treasure Island” in our Hauraki Gulf.

In spite of the at-times challenging weather conditions, the students rolled up their sleeves and managed to plant nearly 1000 pioneer species of native plant.

As well as being a really enjoyable day in the outdoors playing an active role in nurturing our natural environment, it is an excellent way for students to earn points towards their Service Lion. MAGS is very proud of the willingness of these students to put their hand up and say “I’ll help out”. They are now a part of the story of the island.

If your son or daughter would like to be a part of a future planting day, please contact the Environment Club Co-ordinator, Michael Ashby, at mashby@mags.school.nz



Dancers shine at festival



MAGS had four dance items chosen for the annual YouDance youth dance festival held on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Raye Freedman Centre in Epsom. The Festival, now in its eighth year, showcases excellence level performance and choreography from secondary schools and youth groups from all over Auckland. MAGS' items were two group dances choreographed by teacher Ms French and excellence choreographies by Karissa Tapu and Maddison Bencich.

Good luck to the MAGS Megacrew, who will represent MAGS at the Projekt dance competition held in Tauranga over Queen's Birthday Weekend, and to the Moonstars chamber group who will perform an original composition by Emma Moon when they compete in the chamber group competition at the Raye Freedman Centre next Wednesday.

ARTS EVENTS COMING UP IN TERM 2:

Friday 8th June

Year 11 Drama students devised performance, Alberton historic homestead, 11.45am.

Saturday, 9th June

The Wondercats compete at Rockquest Auckland Central regionals, Auckland Girls Grammar School.

Thursday, 14th June

Visual Arts Board show, MAGS, 4.30-6.30pm.

Tuesday & Wednesday, 26th & 27th June

Year 12 Drama Production, MAGS, 7pm.

Tuesday, 3rd July

Annual Music Concert, Raye Freedman Centre, Epsom, 7pm.

Spoken Word Club member Takunda Muzondiwa (pictured right) has won the 2018 Stand Up Poetry Slam, held at the Auckland City Library as part of Youth Week 2018.

She, along with Year 11 student Abby Irwin, was invited to perform at the individual event with 10 other young poets after they had auditioned earlier for a teams event.



The teams audition was for WORD - The Front Line, with MAGS entering two teams that unfortunately did not progress past the audition stage, which featured 44 teams. Spoken Word Club leader Becky Woodall, said, "I am incredibly proud of all of the poets who competed. The performances and passion were evident throughout. We are already looking forward to next year!"

The Spoken Word Club has been busy lately, with Matilda Clack being invited to take part in a project aimed at accepting people with mental illness called "Breaking Myths".

Ms Woodall, said, "This is a digital poetry project and it a tribute to Matilda's performance and poem that she has been invited to be a part of this."

The club was also prominent on Pink Shirt Day with performances focusing on combating bullying. Lucy Zhang is pictured left delivering hers.

If you are interested in the Spoken World Club, contact Becky Woodall at bwoodall@mags.school.nz or come along on Monday lunchtimes when the club meets in E13.

Waihi mine trip



Thirty five Year 13 Economic students travelled to Waihi last Friday, with their teachers, to learn about the gold mining industry courtesy of Oceania Gold.

Students were able to observe the open cast Martha Mine and see the transformation process of changing quartz rock into gold and silver bars.

Mr Phillip Salmond of Oceania Gold provided information on the positive benefits and negative impacts of the mining operation on the town of Waihi, one of the few places in the world where gold mining is undertaken near an urban area.

MAGS' Head of Commerce, Mr Andrew Maunder, said the trip was relevant to an assignment requiring students to study potential positive and negative impacts of economic activity, how to mitigate them and also how to find solutions. Students commented on how the mine is significant to a small town like Waihi and, in particular, the macro-economic benefits it brings to the population.



Albertian Jim Lott remembered



The memory of Albertian Jim Lott, who was killed while serving with the US Marines in the Vietnam War, was honoured by MAGS students during a ceremony to mark Memorial Day at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Year 12 History students Daniel Mackay, Sophie Thomson and Kieran Atkinson (pictured above left to right) were accompanied by Deputy Principal Tom Murdoch and laid a wreath in honour of Cpl Lott.

All three students have travelled to Vietnam, and have taken a keen interest in the war. They are pictured with Jim Lott's niece, Debbie Elias, and her daughter Tyra, who also attended the

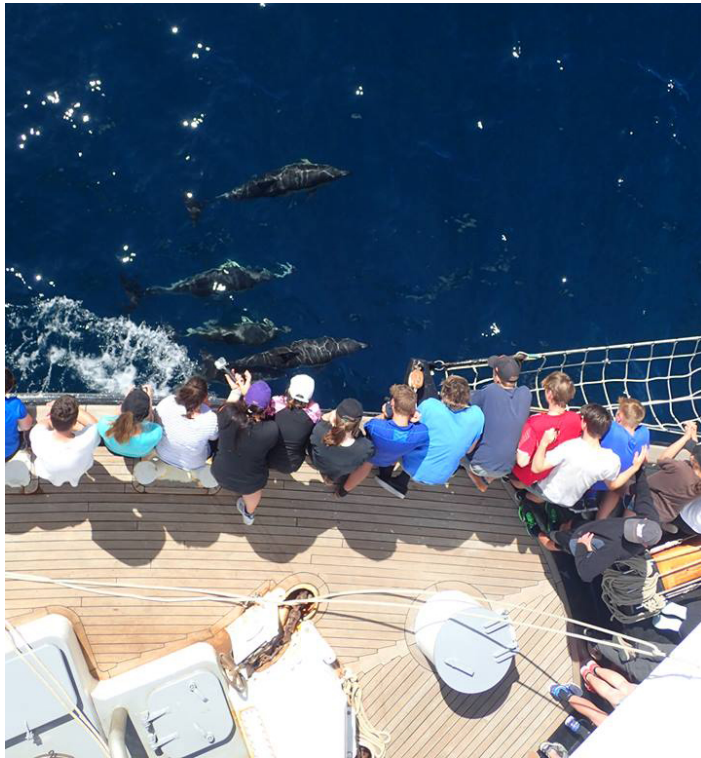
ceremony.

On Memorial Day the United States honours their soldiers who fell in the line of duty.

For freelance writer Ben Stanley's fascinating story about Jim Lott, which appeared in North & South magazine, click [here](#)



Places available on Spirit of New Zealand



Places are still available on the Spirit of New Zealand sailing ship during the July school holidays.

The 10-day voyages for 16 to 18-year-olds depart from and return to Auckland, with a subsidised cost of \$2500.

This trip can also be used towards Duke of Edinburgh Gold.

Julia Bryant, of Spirit of Adventure, says, "The crew love this time of year and come back raving about the abundance of wildlife, fewer people out on the water and better sailing conditions." For more information and to make bookings, click [here](#)

Reminders about leave requests/lost property

Requests for non-school related leave of one day or more during the school year must be addressed to the Headmaster, Mr Patrick Drumm, at least two weeks before the start of proposed leave.

Please give the dates of proposed absence from school and the purpose of the leave.

Catering for student leave requires a lot of work on the behalf of administration staff and teachers, so please give as much advance notice as possible.

If in writing, please address requests for leave to: The Headmaster, Mr Patrick Drumm, Mt Albert Grammar School, Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025. If emailing, please send

to: paheadmaster@mags.school.nz

Parents are also reminded to make the school aware of any change of circumstances or contact details. These can be sent to details@mags.school.nz so the school database can be updated.

Lost Property: The school is holding a lot of lost property. Parents are reminded that all student clothing and sports gear should be clearly labelled. Lost property can be collected from the Student Centre or PE Lost Property in Gym 1.

Major changes to bus network

When Term 3 starts on Monday, 23 July, the school bus service 007 (Balmoral to Mount Albert Grammar and Mount Albert Grammar to Balmoral) will no longer be operating.

This bus service will continue to operate until the end of Term 2 (Friday, 6 July).

The journeys these bus services provided can be made using other public bus services operating on St Lukes Rd and Balmoral Rd.

These changes are part of a wider public transport review affecting all of Auckland. Most Central Auckland suburb public bus routes will be changing on Sunday, 8 July.

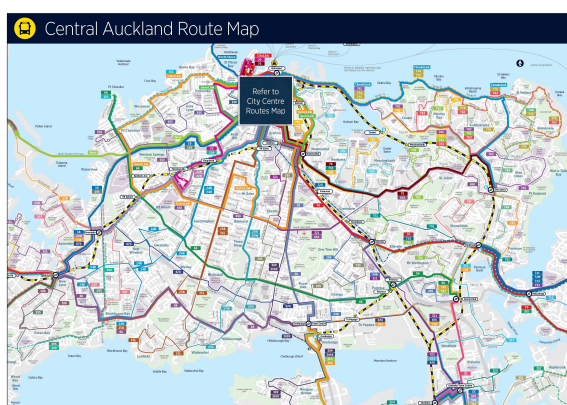
Click on image for the new routes

Most school bus routes will be given new route numbers to formalise the route numbering system and remove duplication.

Some bus routes are changing to remove differences between the morning and returning afternoon routes to make them easier to understand and use. Some routes are changing due to low patronage.

For the best public transport journey option use the AT online journey planner <https://at.govt.nz/journeyplanner> from 16 June when new routes are uploaded.

For more Information about the public bus changes being implemented on 8 July, go to <https://at.govt.nz/newnetworkcentral>



Sports update

[Xterra team shows their mettle](#)



As reigning Auckland Champions, the MAGS Xterra team made a statement about defending their title in race one of the Xterra Auckland Trail series 2018 Race at Shakespear Regional Park. A team of 28 MAGS students raced in the first of six Xterra Trail runs for the season, and despite the variable weather, all raced strongly and dominated the various distance events. After the first event the MAGS team is top of the Teams Competition.

Individual Placings: 1st Liam Thompson (Long course), 2nd Harry Thurman (Long course), 1st Hannah Houghton (Mid course), 2nd Holly Chaafe (Mid course), 3rd Lachie Douglas (Mid course), 3rd Holly Bannister (Short course).

Karate Bronze for Brady Henry at Oceania Champs



Brady Henry has won bronze in his division representing NZ at the 19th Oceania Karate Championships held in Auckland. Brady, in Year 10, was competing in the Premier Male Kumite - 57kg class at what is an international championship. He has been learning karate since the age of 7, and first represented New Zealand at age 10. Among his many other achievements so far are Gold medals at the Oceania Championships in 2014 and 2016, and a Bronze medal at the Karate Commonwealth Tournament in Canada in 2013.

Charlie Bioletti in Fencing video

Champion fencer Charlie Bioletti (pictured right) features in a video on the NZ Herald website explaining his sport and the passion he has for it.

Charlie, in Year 12, was part of the MAGS Fencing team that swept the NZ U17 Boys division at the National Fencing Competition in Wellington recently. Charlie won the division, with James Butler 2nd and Gio Aguila in 3rd place.

Click [here](#) to watch the video.



Hockey Girls battling on



NFL Coach Vince Lombardi said "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand."

Coach Sharne Roberts said this quote epitomises the spirit of the First XI Hockey Girls.

"Each game the girls come out with focus on the basics, possession, and playing to the best of

their abilities. Each week the girls deliver, as each game is played they improve on their game, and yet the result never goes our way."

This week saw the ball doing the work, players beating opposition and then giving straight balls.

Players were getting in behind the Diocesan 2nd XI's defence, but the ball just did not seem to want to find the back of the goal.

Diocesan were 2-0 up at halftime and that was also the final score.

The Hockey Boys First XI played Paukranga on Wednesday and lost 2-1.

Premier games this weekend

The First XV Rugby team is one of the few teams playing over Queen's Birthday Weekend, with a game away to Aorere College tomorrow at 2.30pm.

For full fixtures and results, click [here](#)

Sports trials and registrations



Students are encouraged to register for sports teams and trials taking place in Term 2.

[Click here for the registration forms](#)

General notices

**MATARIKI
FESTIVAL
2018**

**Albert-Eden
Local Board**
Auckland Council

Matariki @ Owairaka Domain Art Installations

Local schools
celebrate Matariki
with art from recycled &
re-purposed objects

Check out www.facebook.com/Matariki-at-Owairaka

Top of
Summit Drive, Mt Albert
June 30th to July 9th 2018

"Schools creating in our community"





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