



From the Headmaster

Community-led Schooling Under Threat



The debate around the future of schooling in New Zealand is picking up momentum in response to the Tomorrow's Schools Review prepared by an independent taskforce.

The proposals in the report are radical by any measure and as such are drawing strong responses from school leaders, teachers, trustees and parents.

The report is low on evidence and high on ideology as it proposes to create new centralised 'Hubs' to control schools. Boards of Trustees will be disbanded, as will the Education Review Office and NZQA.

Hubs will employ all staff including Principals and have the power to move them from one school to another as they see fit. Schools would no longer be able to manage student discipline – the 'Hub' would now assume this role. Schools would also lose autonomy in the use of locally raised funds, including from international student programmes and donations.

The Taskforce commenced its review process last year with the assumption that the current education system is failing our students.

Nothing could be further from the truth! The Ministry of Education's own data shows that only 6.25% of schools across New Zealand required statutory intervention in the past three years. ERO has given almost 90% of schools a 3, 4 or 5 Year Review Return Time, ranking these schools as 'very good'.

These success indicators challenge any mandate for wholesale change of our current schooling system, which, while not perfect, continues to serve the vast majority of students and families very well.

The success of Mount Albert Grammar School over recent years can be attributed to the leadership and governance by our most important stakeholders – our community. The Tomorrow's Schools Review threatens to remove the ability of parents and students to

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the 2019 Calendar

Friday, March 8

First day of NISS Rowing Champs, Lake Karapiro



Wednesday, March 13

Polyfest begins

Tuesday, March 26

Parent-Teacher Conferences



Sport



Photo Essays

Auckland Aquathon Champs

Click [here](#)

Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)

Sport trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

create the school they want – a unique school like MAGS.

I encourage you to become part of the discussion at this most important time in New Zealand education.

You are invited to come along to Holy Trinity Cathedral next Thursday, 7 March at 7pm where the key author of the report, Bali Haque, will be presenting. Furthermore, you have an opportunity to make a submission on your views to tomorrows.schools@education.govt.nz.

Have a good weekend,

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Relay for Life sets \$150,000 target



Having raised a record \$100,000 last year, MAGS' Relay for Life participants have set their sights even higher and are aiming to collect \$150,000 this year for the Cancer Society.

And they are well on their way: in the two weeks since signing up, they already have pledges of \$50,207.

Organiser Alayna Pulham said 92 students have already met their \$200 goal.

Ms Pulham said, "Currently, we have 300 students on the team, which is the limit due to safety restrictions at the event. However, every time one student pulls out an email is sent to the next student on the wait list. So if you know you are on the wait list keep an eye on your emails."

She added, "In the last week, a total of 1218 different people and organisations have made donations towards students from the MAGS team. Already around the school students are selling cupcakes, cookies, dumplings and have set up various other initiatives to help raise money to the cause. Some have gone to speak at schools and sport clubs about why they are doing this and how to help."

You can read some of their stories and donate [here](#)

The event takes place over the weekend of April 6-7, with sponsored participants walking or running as many laps of Mt Roskill's Lovelock Track as possible to raise money for the Cancer Society.

Pasifika Assembly focuses on achievement



Businessman and Albertian Winston Timaloa (pictured right) was the guest speaker at the first Pasifika Assembly of the year on Wednesday.

Mr Timaloa, who has a daughter at MAGS, told students to be proud of themselves, their culture and heritage. He said the onus was on them to take responsibility for their education, to work hard and to communicate with their teachers so that they could always do better. He said that everything they achieved at MAGS would form the basis for their direction in life. At the assembly, students were also introduced to new Deputy Principal Corey Todd, who would be overseeing Pasifika, and Danny Afoa, who is filling in for Mr Taulapiu as Pasifika Liaison while he is on leave. Both are pictured above.

Pasifika Prefects and the Pasifika Council were also introduced, and senior students who had achieved academically were acknowledged.





Pasifika Prefects (from left): Vaughn Mika, Theresa Anisi, Darhys Simone, Alyssa Houma, Frank Anderson, Karla Akeli, Faleaka Bloomfield, Phillip Taua and Maraea Ah Kuoi-Atmore.

MAGS' Kapa Haka Champions



Kapa Haka is in good hands at MAGS with the programme being overseen by two national champions in Te Puna o Wairaka's Whaea Waimirangi Paul and Matua Peter Walters. Whaea Miri and Matua Peter (pictured above with last year's Kapa Haka leaders Kaharau Mendes and Sheye Semple) not only teach Kapa Haka but also take part themselves with their West Auckland-based team, Ngā Tūmanako.

At Te Matatini (the biennial national kapa haka championships) in Wellington on Sunday, Ngā Tūmanako were crowned Toa Whakaihuwaka (champions) after competing against 46 other teams from all over the country over four days. Their winning performance focused on

the revitalisation of te reo.

At last year's Polyfest, the school's Kapa Haka group finished 7th overall, maintaining their spot in the top division and a great result considering they were up against Maori immersion schools. Whaea Miri and Matua Peter – ka pai!

International Prefects announced



Above: International Prefects Orion Schmok (Japan/Canada) and Mora (Yuwen) Ye (China).

At the first International Assembly of the year, International students were introduced to the International staff, their head prefects (pictured above) and their student committee. This term there are 40 new International students, with 167 in total from 18 countries. International staff welcomed the students and also outlined school rules on such things as uniform, attendance and exams, and emphasised the importance of good study habits and communicating with their teachers. At the end of the assembly, students were grouped together by nationality to introduce themselves to each other.

Arts update

CALLING ALL JUNIOR MUSICIANS AND SINGERS



MAGS PRESENTS **JUNIOR IDOL**

Open to all musicians, bands and singers
(individual and duets/groups)

Entries close March 6th

Register at jpaxton@students.mags.school.nz

YEAR NINE STUDENTS EXCELL IN VISUAL ART

The following students will be awarded certificates of excellence for their work, which is currently on display in the lower E block gallery: Maddy Bones 9RPY, Manawa Kronfeld-Cotton 9STW, Leta Unasa 9PUL, Baxter Hilson 9GIB, Connor Craig 9GIB, Rob Ah Chong Vakalahi 9KGN, Yeo Ho Choi 9KGN and Maxi Bevacqua-Kimi 9DAL.

MAGS SENIOR ARTS CHALLENGE

Get your team together and devise a concept for a 7-10 minute performance that incorporates all

arts strands based on the following quote:

Diversity: The Art of thinking independently together (Malcolm Forbes)

Teams must have a maximum of 10 members and have representatives from Dance, Music, Visual Arts, Media and Drama.

The winning concept will be awarded a budget to present their piece at *Arts Alive* in Week 10 of Term 3.

For more information or to register your team, please email jcesan@mags.school.nz

Students with a passion for the Arts, should keep an eye on the [Notices](#) for upcoming auditions, meetings and events.

Careers Department on Facebook



The Careers Department has launched its own Facebook page where students and parents can find out more about future pathways.

The page is regularly updated and has information about available jobs, tertiary education providers, seminars, trades opportunities and much, much more.

To keep up with the play in a fast-moving job market, click [here](#) and like their page to receive regular updates.

Mobility dog at school

One of our senior students requires a mobility dog and this dog will accompany her to school and to classes from the beginning of Term 2.

All students should be aware that this dog is a working dog and not a school pet that can be stopped while it is working to be fussed over, patted or fed. This will be addressed with our students at assemblies but parents' support in making this very clear to your son/daughter by discussing this with them would be appreciated.

We feel sure that MAGS students and staff will adapt well, and be understanding of and respectful to this new member of the MAGS community.

Year 11 sailing adventures



Over 2018/19, 48 Mount Albert Grammar School Year 11 Students have had the opportunity to follow in the wake of sailing legend Sir Peter Blake on his victorious round-the-world boat Steinlager 2 during a multi-day sailing trip.

The trips saw our students sailing from Auckland Viaduct to Kawau Island, Great Barrier Island, Motutapu, Waiheke and the Coromandel. The vessel ran with the same system in place as the Whitbread Around the World Race, with students working in different roles below deck, above deck and as part of the sailing crew.

Students Claudia Woods and Jacob Brain recount their adventures [here](#)

2019 Art Show positions available



16-18 August 2019



www.magsartshow.co.nz

CURATOR

The MAGS Art Show Committee is seeking someone with experience in Art curation for this year's show.

If you would like more information about this creative role, please contact us on magsfom@gmail.com

ARTIST LIASION

This is a paid part-time position based at school from March until September. This person needs to have knowledge and experience of Art and Artists, be an excellent communicator, have good organisation and multi-tasking skills and will be highly personable.

Click [here](#) to find out more and to apply.

VOLUNTEERS

A reminder also that we are also still looking for keen volunteers to help organise and run the Art

Show. This is a great way to be involved with the school and the community.
Please email us as at magsfom@gmail.com if this interests you.

Assistant Property Manager vacancy

A great opportunity exists for a suitably qualified and experienced person seeking a part-time (20 hours per week) position in Health and Safety and property oversight at Mount Albert Grammar School, one of New Zealand's leading state schools.

Major tasks include:

- Responsibility for Health and Safety in the School.
- Liaison and communication with contractors, building and renovating, classroom blocks.
- Support for the Property Manager.

Key Requirements

- Previous experience in the building/construction industry.
- Experience in the application of NZ Health and Safety legislation.
- Experience in project management in the building industry would be an advantage.

For more information on this role and other job vacancies at MAGS, click [here](#)

Sports update

Swimming Girls lead the way



Vasilina Shipilova (2 Golds) and World Junior Qualifying swimmer Brearna Crawford (4 Golds) led the way yesterday at the highly competitive Central Zone Swimming Championships held at Diocesan School for Girls.

Each team member dug deep and demonstrated MAGS resilience to produce a very strong team performance, bringing home 11 Gold, eight Silver and five Bronze medals.

There were Relay wins in the Open Girls Fly and Back, the Intermediate Girls Free, and the Junior Girls and Senior Girls Individual Medley.

Swimmers now prepare for Auckland Championships next week and then the Schools Champion of Champions in April.

Four records at Central West Zones



MAGS students broke four school records at the Central West Zone Athletics held at Trusts Stadium on Wednesday.

The school was represented by 63 students, with records being broken by Ruby Pengelly (Junior Girls 1500m – 5:16.72), Zayaan Smith (Junior Girls 200m – 25.54), Sylvia Brunt (Intermediate Girls Shot Put – 12.41m) and Hokioramai Dunn (Junior Boys Discus – 37.49m).

Click [here](#) for MAGS athletes' results, which show who has qualified for the Auckland Championships and who will go into the wildcard draw.

The wildcard draw will be held on Monday 11 March, with the Championships on Wednesday 20 March at Mt Smart Stadium.

Three Golds at Aquathon



MAGS Aquathon teams brought back three Golds and a Bronze at the Auckland Championships held at St Kentigern College on Tuesday.

Gold medals were won by the Intermediate Mixed Team of Jess Wanden Hannay and Aidan Price, the Intermediate Boys Team of Michael Chapman and Luke Clements, and the Senior Mixed Team of Eva Williams and Thomas Brendolise (pictured above). The Senior Girls Team of Ella Speight and Jen Blakeley claimed bronze.

For a photo essay from the event, click [here](#)

National role for Daryl Cartwright



Congratulations to Basketball Director Daryl Cartwright, who will be re-joining Basketball New Zealand as Head Coach of the New Zealand U17 Boys team.

Mr Cartwright, who is also Acting Director of School House, has already enjoyed success at a national age-group level when he was the Head Coach of the Junior Tall Blacks team that defeated Australia in 2016 to qualify for the 2017 Under 19 FIBA World Cup.

After taking time away from national coaching duties last year, Mr Cartwright is thrilled to be rejoining the Basketball New Zealand High Performance system.

Two named in NZ Water Polo squad

Congratulations to MAGS students Caitlyn Mossman and Jamie Eickhoff, who have been named in the Water Polo NZ Girls and Boys cadet squads.

They were selected after a trial camp that was held last weekend in Auckland.

Netballers at competition launch



Picture courtesy of Michael Bradley Photography

The senior girls from MAGS' National Championship-winning Netball Premiers team were invited to attend the launch of the ANZ Premiership competition.

The girls got to mix and mingle with the captains and coach of each team. Once the launch began, the girls interviewed the captains and asked each of them a question about the upcoming season. It was a great way for our girls to get inspired about their own pathway and meet some of the players they look up to.

Albertian rowers to the fore



MAGS enjoyed more rowing success over the past week – not only from our current rowers, but also from three MAGSROW old boys.

Jesse Homer-Pilcher (Year 13, 2018), Nathan Smith (Year 13, 2018) and Mark Lawrence (Year 13, 2017) earned Gold medals in the NZ Rowing Championships at Lake Ruataniwha.

All three MAGS old boys won Gold in both the Mens Club Coxed Eight as well as the Mens Club Coxed Four along with fellow West End rowers. Jesse and Nathan also won bronze in the Mens Club Pair.

Meanwhile, at Lake Karapiro during the Aon Junior Regatta our current rowing squad returned great results, securing 19 places in A finals.

Holly Chaafe won the Girls U17 Single Sculls, the Girls U18 Novice Coxed Eight also won Gold, and the Boys U16 Coxed Quad Sculls and Boys U15 Coxed Four claimed Silver.

General notices



THE
GRADUATE
CHOIR
NEW ZEALAND

FREE OPEN-REHEARSAL

Mount Albert Grammar School Hall
Monday 11 March 2019 | 7 - 8pm

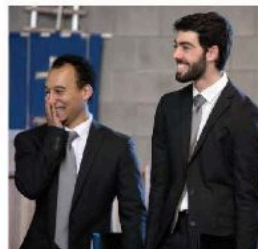
A rare opportunity to observe this stunning choir at work - and your chance to join in!

The Graduate Choir NZ is one of the top mixed-voice choirs in New Zealand, with mostly young singers representing a wide range of the cultural and ethnic mix that makes Auckland special. This diversity helps to contribute to the choir's unique warmth of sound.

Noted alumni of the choir include *Pene* and *Amitai Pati* (of *Sol3 Mio* fame) who began their careers as teenagers with **The Graduate Choir NZ**.



The choir delights audiences in Auckland, throughout New Zealand and internationally with its varied programmes and unique sound - including a performance in Eden Park before an All Black Test. As well, the choir performs regularly with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. Visit our website for more information about the choir. We welcome your enquiry to perform at your function, to audition as a singer and to support us.



The **Graduate Choir NZ** online: www.graduatechoirnz.org



Alberton Market day

With the summer in full swing, the next Market Day at Auckland's Alberton on Sunday, 10 March promises to be a smashing day out!

Forty five stalls specialising in homemade, handmade and NZ-grown products will be on site with an array of handcrafted goods and produce.

Special guests this month are For The Love of Bees, a legacy project aiming to create regenerative urban sanctuaries for bees and other beneficial insects via collective action. Drop in to chat to the founder - artist Sarah Smuts-Kennedy - and collaborator Kathryn Tullock. Learn

about seed saving, plant root structure and how to increase the microbial content in different soils with practical gardening tips.

As always there will be live music, children's entertainment and a huge hamper of goodies up for grabs! A range of food vendors will offer options for brunch or lunch and Alberton's volunteers will be serving tea and scones on the verandah.



**Specialty produce, artisan crafts,
flowers, food stalls, entertainment,
music, coffee, pop-up tea room!**

Supported by

BAYLEYS

MOUNT ALBERT TEAM
LICENSED UNDER REAA 2008

2nd Sunday monthly

Sunday 11 November 2018

Sunday 9 December 2018

Sunday 10 February 2019

Sunday 10 March 2019

Sunday 14 April 2019

10 am - 2 pm

FREE ENTRY

Discounted entry to the house

Alberton, 100 Mt Albert Road, Mt Albert. 846 7367. www.alberton.co.nz



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA



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