



March 20, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Weekly Notices

Courage and Confidence

Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

Daily life at MAGS certainly has a different feel to it compared to the

what used to be the usual bustle of co-curricular activities that are a normal part of our school.



With the cancellation of assemblies and larger gatherings at school, I have tried to reach out to the student body 'virtually' and I have included my e-message shared with the students today. Please click on the image above to play the video.

You can also read a transcript of this Headmaster's Message [here](#)

I have been impressed with the calm and mature approach with which students are approaching their schooling.

Thank you to all who are providing extra support to the MAGS community at this time.

Have a safe weekend.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Thursday, April 9

End of Term 1

Monday April 28

Term 2 starts

Sport



Photo Essay

Orienteering Sprint Series

Click [here](#)

Trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)

Peer Mediators out and about



Peer Mediators have been an important part of the social fabric at MAGS for years now. But this year they have taken things to a new level, wearing blue high-vis vests with Kaiāwhina (Advocate) on the back and getting out and about at intervals and lunchtimes to address any questions from their peers or deal with low-level disputes. Humeera Imran, the only Year 12 among the more than 50 Peer Mediators for 2020, is pictured above with Prefect Faolan Okan, who was also a Peer Mediator as a Year 12 last year.

Peer Mediators undergo training to help them with conflict resolution, something that changed Humeera and Faolan's way of thinking.

"You have to actively listen before you respond and reflect without trying to solve the problem for the people you are dealing with," Faolan says of the process where students in conflict meet in a neutral space to try to solve their differences with the help of two Peer Mediators.

"It's not easy because you are trying to get them to solve their problem by themselves without giving your opinion," says Humeera.

Faolan says a lot of the problems Peer Mediators deal with are the result of false rumours and misunderstandings.

"Sometimes it's also a lack of ability to communicate so it's our job to open up the space so we can expose any misunderstandings because quite often they are holding grudges about things that aren't even true," says Faolan.

Humeera adds, "It's not a formal situation because we're students as well so it's just about getting them to sit down and talk it out, and help them to figure it out themselves."



Once a conflict is resolved, those involved agree to a contract and sign it to seal the deal. Humeera and Faolan say they've learned valuable communication and listening skills through Peer Mediator training, and have been enjoying interacting with their peers at intervals and lunchtimes when they put their high-vis vests on.

Coronavirus update

Yesterday the Government announced that due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, indoor gatherings of more than 100 people are to be cancelled but this does not apply to schools, early learning services, tertiary providers, workplaces, supermarkets or public transport.

At MAGS it is business as usual. Our school is open and we continue to follow instructions from the [Ministry of Health](#) and [Ministry of Education](#).

We have made some changes to our daily operations as a school, as well as upcoming calendar events.

As of Tuesday, the school stopped holding assemblies and large gatherings of students in our School Hall until further notice. Larger community/parent gatherings and meetings during and after the school day will also be postponed for the medium term. Most upcoming national and regional sporting events have been cancelled along with community service, arts and cultural activities.

At this stage, all other aspects of school life (subject classes, arts programmes, sports practices and games) continue to operate as usual.

We are reminding all students to remain committed to their normal school routines as much as possible and to continue to follow the much-publicised hygiene practices found [here](#)

The calm and confident approach from our MAGS students at this time has been commendable and we thank all in our community who provide positive support for our young people.

These fact sheets from the Ministry of Health provide information for people who have had close contact with a suspected case of COVID-19 [here](#) and close contact with a confirmed case [here](#)

How MAGS sport is affected by COVID-19

College Sport has now officially cancelled all Summer Sport and all Winter Sport is on hold. Winter Sport starting dates are being reviewed but at MAGS preparations for the season are still underway and students should still continue to register for sports in Term 2. All Sports Academies timetabled



throughout the normal school day will continue with a modified plan to match the same criteria met by the PE curriculum and that follows the guidelines given to us by the Ministry of Health. Before-school Sport Academies will be postponed this term.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding during this time, and if you have any further questions then please direct them to sports@mags.school.nz

Aquatic Centre pools closed

From tonight, the pools at the Mt Albert Aquatic Centre will be closed for two weeks as part of measures to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Auckland Council pools, libraries and recreation centres are all closed for two weeks. You can read more about these closures [here](#)

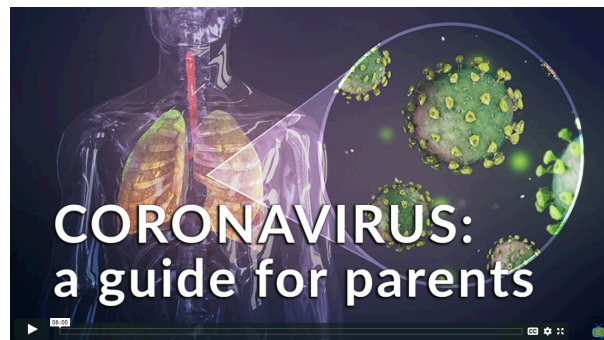
Resources for coping in these times

In these times of disruption to normal routines and anxiety about COVID-19, there are many helpful resources created by health and mental health experts that the public can access.

For parents, [here](#) is a video that can help you to talk to your children and reduce their anxiety about COVID-19.

The Mental Health Foundation provides extensive information about mental wellbeing [here](#) as well as contacts for advice or counselling.

And [here](#) are some resilience strategies for coping in these challenging times.



No cash fares on AT bus services

From next Monday (March 23) Auckland Transport will be suspending cash fares on all buses.

It is doing this to minimise physical contact between customers, AT staff and people who work on buses during the COVID-19 event.

Customers will be expected to pay their fare using AT HOP cards only. This will eliminate cash handling on buses and at depots to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus through touching money and interacting with customers.

- Under no circumstances will school students be refused travel. If they have not got a HOP card, they will be provided with an information leaflet as they board.

- AT will still let people travel but will let customers know they will need an AT HOP card to travel next time.
- There will be a leaflet given to customers who do not have a HOP card to explain why AT is not accepting cash payments while COVID-19 is an issue and where they can get an AT HOP card.

Careers programmes postponed

The KATTI and PILOT Year 13 Programmes have been postponed. Notice has been given of the postponement of these programmes, and the committees will endeavour to run them later in the year.

Christchurch Tragedy Reflection



On Monday at lunchtime, an event was held in the FW Gamble Hall to reflect on the Christchurch tragedy that happened on March 15 last year.

The event was organised by teachers Mohammed Tashmeer and Robina Nisha ,and attended by Headmaster Patrick Drumm, Deputy Principal John Stradwick, teachers, prefects and students.

Niua Pomare-Khanna began the programme with a prayer in Maori. Following that, there was a speech by Husnia Ebrahim on displaying togetherness and understanding in a diverse setting.

The guest speaker for the event was cleric Qays Buksh, who spoke about the importance of being tolerant and respectful of each other by displaying compassion and affection.

Mufti Day raises almost \$4000



Mufti Day on March 6 collected \$3934 towards MAGS' fundraising for The Relay for Life, which sits at around \$60,000 with the Mufti Day money added.

Relay for Life was supposed to start tomorrow but has been postponed – not cancelled – due to the COVID-19 situation. All the money raised goes to the Cancer Society, which provides free nursing, psychology, accommodation, transport and other key services to people in our community affected by cancer.

You can see MAGS' fundraising progress and donate [here](#)



Pictures / Isla Thompson

Tackling the Whanganui River



Last week, the Year 13 Outdoor Education class travelled south to canoe the Whanganui River.

This trip provided students with a real life event to focus on safety management issues and strategies. Within this unit, each student was required to complete a Risk Assessment and Management Strategies (RAMS) form from which they could monitor their identified risks while on the trip and implement the strategies that they had devised.

With very little rainfall lately, the river was low but clear. The students enjoyed the extra responsibility of organising their schedule, equipment and menu.

More historical photos on website



Throughout the year, more historical images will be added to the website [here](#)
This is an ongoing collection of images sourced and annotated by our archivist Brian Murphy.

In the image above, Adrienne Hooper and Katherine Reynolds, riding as MAGS Wheels, show off their first place trophy in the Under 16 Girls section of Auckland Secondary Schools' Mountain Bike Relay Championships held at Woodhill Forest on 4 September, 2005.

Sign up to the Centenary database



As we get closer to our Centenary in 2022, we warmly invite all Albertians to sign up to the database [here](#) to keep up to date with information, communications 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

Orienteers dominate Sprint Series



The Western Zone Sprint Series consisted of five races at different schools. Of the six disciplines, MAGS students came out top in all but one, with outright winners Luca Eastwood, Ayleigh Loomes, Callum Wishart, Molly McGowan and Oscar Vink. Special mentions goes to Callum Wishart who won all five races in a tough Intermediate Boys category and Molly McGowan (four wins) in the Intermediate Girls. There were top three places for Aidan Skinner, Seth Dean, Tom Aish, Justin Brendolise, Felix McElwee, Hugh Skinner, Jydee Leonard, Eva Wadsworth, Sofia Skinner, Ella Somerville and Eden Graves. There was a record 74 students who took part in the events, with an excellent 28 achieving a Top 3 finish in at least one race. For more photos from the event, click [here](#)

AKSS Volleyball Champs



The Senior Boys and Senior Girls Volleyball teams competed at the AKSS Champs at Pulman Park at the end of last week.

The Boys began with a loss (after winning the first set) against Mahurangi College and a 2-1 win against Ormiston. This set them up for a must-win final pool match against top of the table Rosmini College. The Boys went down 2-0, placing them third in the pool.

On Day 2, they won against St Peters 2-0 in under 25 minutes, securing a placing of 11th overall in Division 2.

For photos of the Senior Boys, click [here](#)

The Girls also started strongly, going in with lots of confidence as they won their first game against Botany Downs 2-1. Unfortunately, they lost their next two games 1-2 vs Macleans College and Saint Kentigern College after being match point and a set up in both games.

The Girls ended up placing 10th overall, which was a great achievement.

For photos of the Senior Girls, click [here](#)



Trials and registrations

Trials and registrations are being rolled out for a number of sports.

You can now sign up for hockey, badminton, rugby, basketball and triathlon.

Trials and registrations are posted on the website [here](#) and will also appear in the Daily Notices, accessed via the website or the MAGS App.



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