



[View this email in your browser](#)

Week 8, Term 1, March 23, 2018 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Diversity as an asset



Mount Albert Grammar School is one of the few schools in Auckland that has a cultural diversity among our student community that mirrors that of greater Auckland.

Last week, seven cultural groups comprising 280 students from MAGS joined close to 10,000 other students in performing at the annual Secondary Schools PolyFest in Manukau.

Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, Niuean, Indian and Chinese groups took to the stage during the festival, which drew a crowd of close to 100,000 spectators over the three days.

Creating a school community where each student is comfortable in who they are is a key goal of MAGS.

Our strategic priority of 'Productive Partnerships' was brought to life during PolyFest with a high level of parent engagement in the success of their sons and daughters.

Thank you to our tutors, staff and parents whose work with our PolyFest groups continues to cement 'identity' as a core value of our school.

Congratulations to our performers for your confidence and courage to take to the stage last week.

Have a good week

Patrick Drumm

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

[Click here for the 2018 Calendar](#)

**Monday, March 26 and
Tuesday, March 27**

Parent Teacher Interviews for
Years 9, 10 and 13

Wednesday, March 28

Auckland College Athletics
Champs



Good Friday, March 30

School closed



Sport

**Registration and trials for
summer and winter sports**

[Click here](#)



Photo essay

Premier Boys Water Polo

[Click here](#)

Fixtures and results

[Click here](#)



Huge congratulations to the Premier Boys Softball team, who are national champions for the sixth straight year after a 3-0 win today over Hastings Boys High in the final at Fraser Park, Lower Hutt.

Floyd Nola was named Tournament MVP and Ryan Earley named Top Catcher.

They were also named in the Tournament Team, as were MAGS' pitcher Taine Slaughter, in-fielder Brock Evans, out-fielder Isaac Munro, and coach Stu Kinghorn.

The team and coaching staff are pictured above after being presented with their sixth consecutive national title. They were unbeaten at the tournament and beat arch-rivals Hastings Boys High three times on the way to the national secondary schools title.

In four of their round robin games, the mercy rule was invoked because MAGS was so far in front.

For the latest on MAGS sports teams and individuals taking part in Summer Tournament Week, see the stories below.

Inspirational performances at PolyFest



Weeks of dedication from students, staff and supporters paid off with stunning performances from MAGS groups at PolyFest last week.

Director of Arts Co Curricular Jacqui Cesan, said, "Each group did an outstanding job of representing MAGS and their cultures.

"The performances were the culmination of over five weeks of intense rehearsals, and every day during this time students, their mentors and tutors could be found working hard in various locations both at school and off-site."

Indian and Chinese groups represented MAGS on the non-competitive Diversity Stage, and the Cook Island group was also in a non-competitive section, but still received a Merit trophy for the quality of their performance.

While MAGS' Tongan and Samoan groups did not place they were both impressive, with the Samoan group a clear crowd favourite.

Ms Cesan said, "Particularly impressive with both these groups was the effort that was put into incorporating MAGS' colours and Lion into their costuming."

The Kapa Haka group also gave a stellar performance and got a number of placings in different sections, retaining their seventh placing in first division.

However, it was the Niuean group who enjoyed the biggest success, winning a number of first places in individual sections and finishing third overall in the Co-Ed schools section.

As well, Year 13 student Hosea Tavita won the Niuean senior boys speech section.

This is a special result for this group as this is the first time in over seven years that we have had a Niuean group represent MAGS at Polyfest.

For a photo gallery from PolyFest, [click here](#)



Albertian's new White House role

Chris Liddell's rise through the business and political ranks in the United States would come as no surprise to his former schoolmates at MAGS. Mr Liddell (1971-1975), who has been appointed a deputy chief of staff in the Trump administration, swept MAGS' major awards in his final year at the school.

In 1975 he was Dux, Victor Ludorum, vice captain and best player in the 1st XV rugby team, most improved oarsman in the Senior VIII, a member of the Senior Athletics and Cross Country teams, played Senior Rugby League and was a member of the Senior Chess team.

After leaving MAGS, he gained a Bachelor of Engineering degree with honors from the University of Auckland, and a Master of Philosophy degree from Oxford University.

His business career has included executive roles at Carter Holt Harvey, General Motors and Microsoft. His first appointment to the White House staff came about a year ago when he was made assistant to President Donald Trump and director of strategic initiatives.

Mr Liddell, who is pictured when he was named Albertian of the Year in

2011, has never forgotten the role MAGS played in his life. He and brother John started the Liddell Scholarships in 2008, and made a \$1 million commitment to the MAGS Foundation, which aims to raise \$10 million by the school's centenary in 2022.





Bookings have opened for Parent Teacher Interviews for Years 9, 10 & 13 on Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27 from 4-7pm. You should have received an email with instructions about how to book an interview. If not, go to the website www.schoolinterviews.co.nz, click on the 'Make a Booking' tab and enter the event code z2dj6

Note: Conferencing for Year 11 & 12 students with their academic mentor will occur in Term 2. Details to be confirmed.

To accommodate Parent Teacher Interviews, school will finish an hour early – at 2.10pm – on the Monday and Tuesday. There will be no form time on those days and classes will be shortened to 50 minutes.

Riding the rapids



This week, the three Year 11 Outdoor Education classes visited Wero Whitewater Park in Manukau to allow them to develop their understanding of factors that influence their own participation and to demonstrate responsible behaviour.

After practising their paddling, eddy and rescue skills, they went up the conveyor belt and into the Grade 2 river.

Here, they rode rapids and tried to stay upright. Thank you to Albertian Maddie MacGregor for her assistance on these trips.

Also across this week, the eight Year 10 Outdoor Education classes visited Extreme Edge Climbing in Glen Eden. This presented the students with an opportunity to climb a higher wall and solidify their belaying and climbing skills.





Head of Careers Kubi Witten-Hannah has won a \$500 travel scholarship for a lucky MAGS student.

Mr Witten-Hannah entered a competition run by Unitec to get the most "likes" on this photo he posted on social media.

He said, "A big thank you to those of you who went on to social media to vote for my photo. I have won the competition with more than twice the votes of my nearest rival."

The scholarship will go to a MAGS student who enrolls at Unitec for next year for a minimum programme of two years.

They must be enrolled in Sports, Business, Architecture, Engineering or Construction programmes, and participate in the exchange programme to the USA or Canada in their second year of study (2020).

Weeding and righting the neighbourhood

MAGS students are invited to take part in a competition to remove as many moth plant pods (pictured) as possible from their neighbourhood. There is a prize pool of \$3000 to be won, with prizes ranging from \$50 Westfield St Lukes vouchers all the way up to a \$1000 pre-loaded Prezzy Card.

[Click here](#) to find out more about moth plant and why it's a problem.

More information on prizes and the Conditions of Entry can be found [here](#)

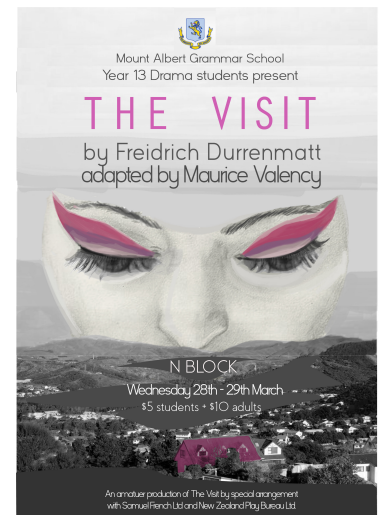
The competition ends on Sunday, 15 April.



Classes have surprise visit



Year 13 Drama students conducted a guerrilla marketing campaign this week to promote their upcoming production of the black comedy *The Visit*. The Drama students dropped in on classes during form time in character to drum up interest in the production on Wednesday and Thursday evenings next week. MAGS' version of *The Visit* is set in a fictional North Island town that has fallen on hard times but has a rich former citizen returning with revenge on her mind. Show times: Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th of March, 7pm in N Block. Tickets are purchased on the night – \$5 students, \$10 adults.



ARTS EVENTS IN TERM 1

April 5-7: Sheilah Winn Shakespeare – Venue TBC

April 10-11: Annual Dance Concert – Centennial Theatre

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

Tai Hemana into XVenture final

School House boy Tai Hemana and his Tauranga family are competing in the final of the XVenture Family Challenge TV Series on Three at 5.30pm on Sunday.

The final sees Team Hemana go head-to-head with three other New Zealand families in a new round of mental and physical challenges that test teamwork and resilience.

Year 11 student Tai and his family are competing for a \$25,000 cash prize up for grabs in the show, which is hosted by TV and radio personality Simon Barnett.

Sports update

Summer Tournament Week wrap-up



In Cricket, the Girls 1st XI had two wins and two losses to finish fifth in their T20 tournament, while the Boys 1st XI won one and lost three (with two matches abandoned) to finish 6th in the T20.

In Futsal, a loss by the Junior Girls to Marist College sent them into a 3rd/4th playoff against Diocesan, who they beat 3-0 to claim third spot.

The hopes of the Senior Girls Futsal side were dented by a 0-5 loss to Hillcrest, and they finished ninth after a 2-2 draw against Sacred Heart Girls New Plymouth.

The Junior Boys Futsal, also played in Wellington, has seen MAGS record three wins and four losses so far.

In the Mountain Biking Nationals, Ethan Blanchard finished 4th in the Boys U17 Downhill at Skyline, Rotorua – a terrific result in a very competitive division against much bigger boys.

Harriet Neradt finished fifth in the Girls U16 Cross Country at the Mountain Biking Nationals in Rotorua. Her brother Max finished 18th in the Boys U20 Cross Country.

In Waka Ama, also held at Rotorua, Serenity Smith-Nansen took 7th place in the U16 Girls Plate Final, while Danessa Lemalu finished 8th in the same race.

Premier Boys and Senior Girls Water Polo were still in action today.

For Summer Tournament Week fixtures and results, [click here](#)

For photo essays from the Girls and Boys 1st XI Cricket, and Premier Boys Water Polo, [click here](#)

Maadi Cup rowing latest



Holly Chaafe will be rowing in two A finals tomorrow at the Maadi Cup in Twizel.

She will be competing in the Girls U16 Single Sculls and the Girls U17 Double Sculls with Hannah Zwalue.

Also in A Finals are the Boys U17 Coxed Eight and the Boys U15 Coxed Octuple Sculls.

Holly Chaafe also made the B Final in the Girls U17 Single Sculls as did Hannah Zwalue.

Team confirmed for Auckland Athletics Champs



MAGS' Athletics team has been confirmed for the College Sport Auckland Athletics Championship on Wednesday at Mt Smart Stadium.

Among them is Hannah Adye, pictured above, who won silver medals in the U18 Women's Pole Vault and U20 Women's Pole Vault at the North Island Champs a fortnight ago.

For the full MAGS team and the events they are competing in, [click here](#)

For the meet programme, [click here](#)

Nikko Boxall set for All Whites debut



Nikko, pictured, has played for the NZ U20 side and is the younger brother of All Whites defender and Albertian Michael Boxall (2002-2006).

Because he has spent most of his professional career playing in Scandinavia, little has been seen of Nikko on this side of the world.

He is one of several new faces selected by coach Fritz Schmid for the training camp and behind-closed-doors friendly against Canada in Spain.

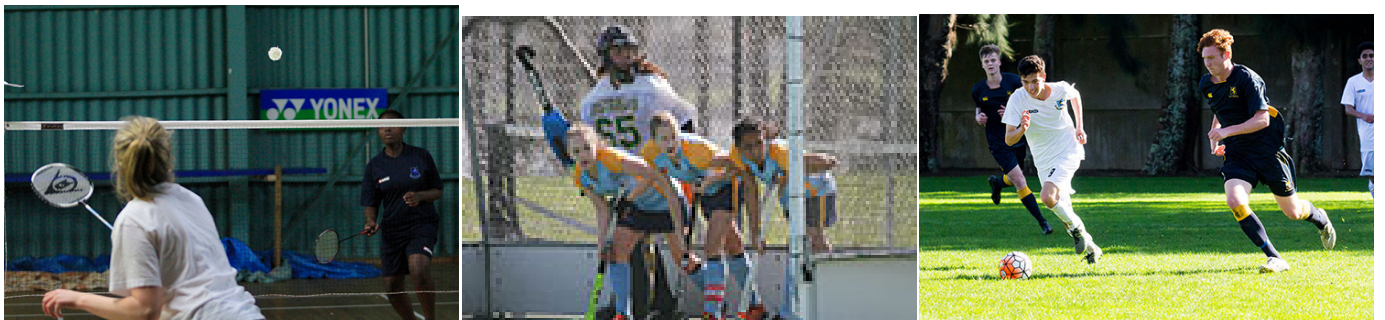
Five MAGS players in NZ Lacrosse team



Five MAGS students have been named in the New Zealand U18 Lacrosse team.

Jackson Bramley, Thys Dekker, Zane Harrison, Jack Norris and Liam Price will join the side, which is due to fly out on March 28 to compete in the Australian Nationals.

Sports trials and registrations



Students are encouraged to register for sports teams and trials taking place in Term 1. Sports seeking registrations include Hockey, Basketball, Squash, Football, Badminton and Netball.

[Click here for the registration forms](#)

General notices



Copyright © 2018 Mount Albert Grammar School, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)