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March 6, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Headmaster

# A Sense of Belonging



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

At MAGS we place great value on the importance of 'belonging' to our school community.

The outstanding success enjoyed by MAGS students is a function of that community – staff, students, parents, alumni and friends of our school – all

collectively nurturing a culture of caring framed by the highest expectations.

Students excel when they own the learning process – and own their school. It is critical that students can walk through our school gates each morning with confidence in who they are as individuals. They must feel safe yet know they will be challenged and extended in the day ahead. And most of all we want them to be proud of the school community to which they belong.

We recently received [results from the 2019 TIMSS](#) (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) in which a sample of Year 9 MAGS students took part. Along with encouraging results and feedback about attitudes and performance in both Mathematics and Science, the students answered questions relating to their sense of belonging at school.

While not perfect, the feedback (in the clickable graphic below) does tell us we are heading in the right direction with building a school culture where people come first!

Thank you to all in our community who help to create the school that is MAGS.

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm  
Headmaster

## Weekly Notices



## Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



**Friday and Saturday,  
March 20 & 21**

MAGS groups at Polyfest  
(see details below)



**Saturday and Sunday  
March 21 & 22**

Relay for Life  
(see details below)



## Sport

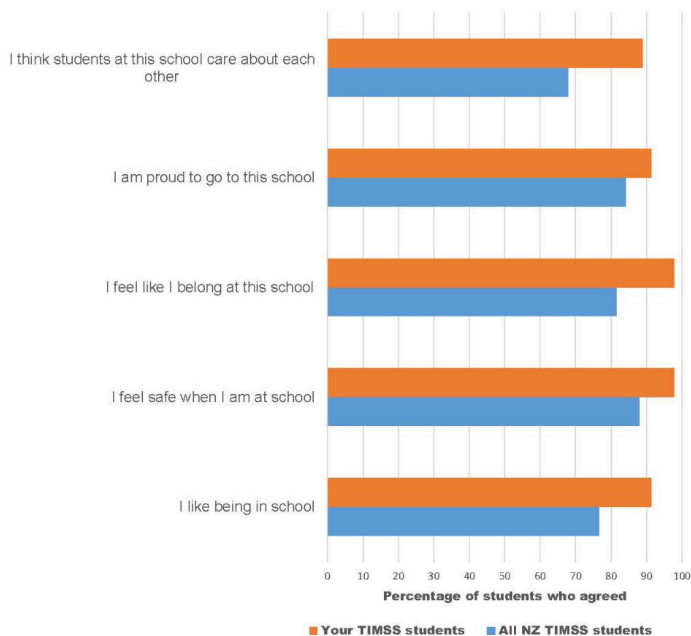
### Photo Essays

Premier Boys Softball AKSS  
One Day Tournament

### Sense of belonging at school

Students were also asked to agree or disagree with a series of positive statements about their school. The percentages below are the students who agreed with these statements.

#### Year 9 TIMSS students' sense of belonging at school



Click [here](#)

#### Premier Girls Softball AKSS One Day Tournament



Click [here](#)

#### Trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

#### Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)

## Relay for Life's bright prospects



The Relay for Life team has hit the ground running and has already raised a massive amount of money for the Cancer Society. The total sits at around \$40,000 – almost halfway to the \$100,000 target – and that sum

will be augmented by proceeds from today's bright colours-themed Mufti Day and bake sales (as pictured below).

The Science Department were among staff who got into the spirit of things with their colours-of-the-rainbow ensembles (pictured right).

MAGS' Relay for Life organiser Alayna Pulham said the 300 spots available to MAGS students in the event were snapped up in 12 minutes this year, such is its popularity. She said, "Each student has an individual goal of raising \$200 for the cancer society and already 45 students have surpassed this. Some students have already been promoted on the NZ Relay for Life Facebook page as "Superstar Fundraisers" for raising over \$500. The whole group has a team goal of raising \$100,000 for the third year in a row.

"All money raised goes towards the Cancer Society and provides free nursing, psychology, accommodation, transport and other key services to people in our community affected by cancer."

The Relay for Life starts at 2pm on March 21 at Lovelock Track and ends at 9am the next day, with students trying to do as many laps as possible of the track.

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



## A MAGS family tradition



Prefect and House Boy Theo Coker-Grey (pictured right) is continuing a fine family tradition that began with his great-grandfather H.L. (Harry) Grey, a Prefect and foundation pupil at MAGS in 1922 (pictured top left).

Harry was a day boy who travelled to school by train from Helensville, after milking the cows on the family farm each morning.

He went on to study for a civil engineering degree at Auckland University before working for a surveyor as a cadet. He also worked on the Arapanui hydro-electrical dam before setting up the family farm at Glen Murray (south of Mercer) that Theo's family lives on now.

Harry's younger brother R.B (Bob) Grey also attended MAGS, and was one of the first Albertians, if not the first, to become a GP.



There have been other family connections in the almost 100 years since then with Theo's grandfather R.L. (Robert) Grey and great uncle J.C. (John) Grey also attending MAGS and boarding at School House in the 1950s.

Both played 1st XV rugby and were keen and talented rowers, and rowed for MAGS in the Eight that won the Maadi Cup in 1951. John Grey was also a Prefect.

Theo, who plays Premier Basketball, says he wasn't initially aware of the family connections to MAGS but has learned more about them in recent years.

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## Junior School Representatives announced



*Year 9 Level Representatives (from left) Jonelle Puletiuatoa, Ryan Antia, Rosa Fox and Eved Ah Soon, with Junior School Deputy Principals Tom Murdoch and Sarah Hayes.*

At Assemblies on Monday and Tuesday this week, Junior School representatives were announced and introduced to their peers.

Congratulations to our Year Level representatives, who were named along with Environment Leaders, Class Representatives and Interform Competition Captains.

For photos of our Junior School representatives and a full list of their names, click [here](#)

*Year 10 Level Representatives (below from left) are: Louis Uri, Annalisse Petersen, Olivia Bennett and Jason Jacob, with Miss Hayes and Mr Murdoch.*



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## Coronavirus update

The school is closely monitoring developments regarding the coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak.

We are receiving regular updates from both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, and are following advice around best practice.

The latest – and regularly updated – information from the Ministry of Health can be found [here](#) and from the Ministry of Education [here](#)

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## Polyfest performance times



Performance times have been announced for MAGS' Polyfest groups, who will be featuring on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, at the Manukau Sports Bowl.

All the groups have been practising hard for many weeks and would love to have friends, family and alumni supporting them at the event.

First to hit the stage are the Cook Islands group at 9am on the Friday, with the Tongan group at 12.50pm and 5.10pm, and the Niuean group at 2.30pm.

On the Saturday, you can see the Samoan group (10.15am), the Indian group (10.50am) and Kapa Haka group (1.35pm).

For tickets and info, click [here](#)

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## Introducing Head Held High

From the beginning of Term 2, Head Held High will be offering MAGS students weekly lessons in two high-quality programmes – a speech and drama programme and a communication skills programme.



Lessons will be held at MAGS on Thursdays and Fridays before, during and after school. If enrolled in either of the programmes, students would attend 1 x 30-45 minute (age-dependent) lesson per week during school terms. For more information and prices please check out the Head Held High [website](#).

Head Held High are committed to building the confidence,

communication skills, character and creativity of NZ's young people. It is these skills that allow our young people to lead successful and happy lives.

Head Held High students also have the opportunity to gain globally recognised qualifications by sitting Trinity College of London or NZ Speech Board examinations.

To enrol for or find out more about Head Held High classes, click [here](#)

Students' first lessons are a FREE, no-obligation trial lesson.

If you have any questions email, [kateimlach@headheldhigh.co.nz](mailto:kateimlach@headheldhigh.co.nz)

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## Astronomy Club lifts off

The MAGS Astronomy Club has been established to foster an interest in amateur astronomy.

The club, overseen by Mathematics teacher Diego Alarcon, will be dedicated to observing the sky and learning about the universe, and sharing that understanding and appreciation of astronomy with students, parents and friends of MAGS.

In addition, the club aims to share the Tātai arorangi (Māori astronomical knowledge), which is considered as part of the Kauwae-runga, the Māori body of knowledge that

encompasses creation, the gods, stars, time and celestial matters.

The club has an Instagram account – **@astroclubmags** – as its main means of communications that students, parents and teachers can follow and interact with.

There will also be six workshops across the year on specific themes such as astronomy without a telescope and planetary science. Students have indicated that their preference is to use technology to connect and expand their knowledge of this topic rather than weekly or fortnightly meetings that may overload their extracurricular schedule.

Mr Alarcon said, "We hope that this new format will encourage more students to participate."

At the moment, the club has over 200 students who receive daily information. The students also provide feedback to the club every time that they give a like to the content.



## Astronomy conference opportunity

The Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand (RASNZ) is offering to pay for some high school students to attend its annual conference in Wellington (Friday, May 8 to Sunday, May 10).

This year's conference marks the 100th anniversary since the Society formed. The normal conference registration fee is around \$300, however the Society is waiving this cost for 10-15 young astronomers who are keen to attend. In addition, the cost of the Saturday night banquet, travel costs to/from the conference city and accommodation (usually backpackers) for the Friday and Saturday nights are paid for by a generous benefactor.

To be considered, students should email a short statement of no more than 300 words explaining why they would like to attend the conference and why they are interested in astronomy. This statement should be sent to RASNZ Immediate-Past

President John Drummond (email: [kiwiastronomer@gmail.com](mailto:kiwiastronomer@gmail.com) by Friday, March 27, 2020,

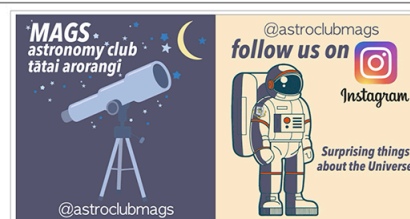
A promotional poster for the 'Weekend of Astronomy in Wellington ALL FREE' event. The text is in red and black, listing 'Conference fee', 'Accommodation', 'Travel costs', and 'and Food.' as being covered. Below this, it states that the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand (RASNZ) is promoting astronomy for NZ high school students. At the bottom, it says 'find out more @astroclubmags'. The background features a stylized rocket ship and stars.

**Weekend of Astronomy  
in Wellington ALL FREE\***

**Conference fee  
Accommodation  
Travel costs  
and Food.**

The Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand (RASNZ) is promoting astronomy for NZ high school students who have an interest and passion for this science.

**find out more  
@astroclubmags**





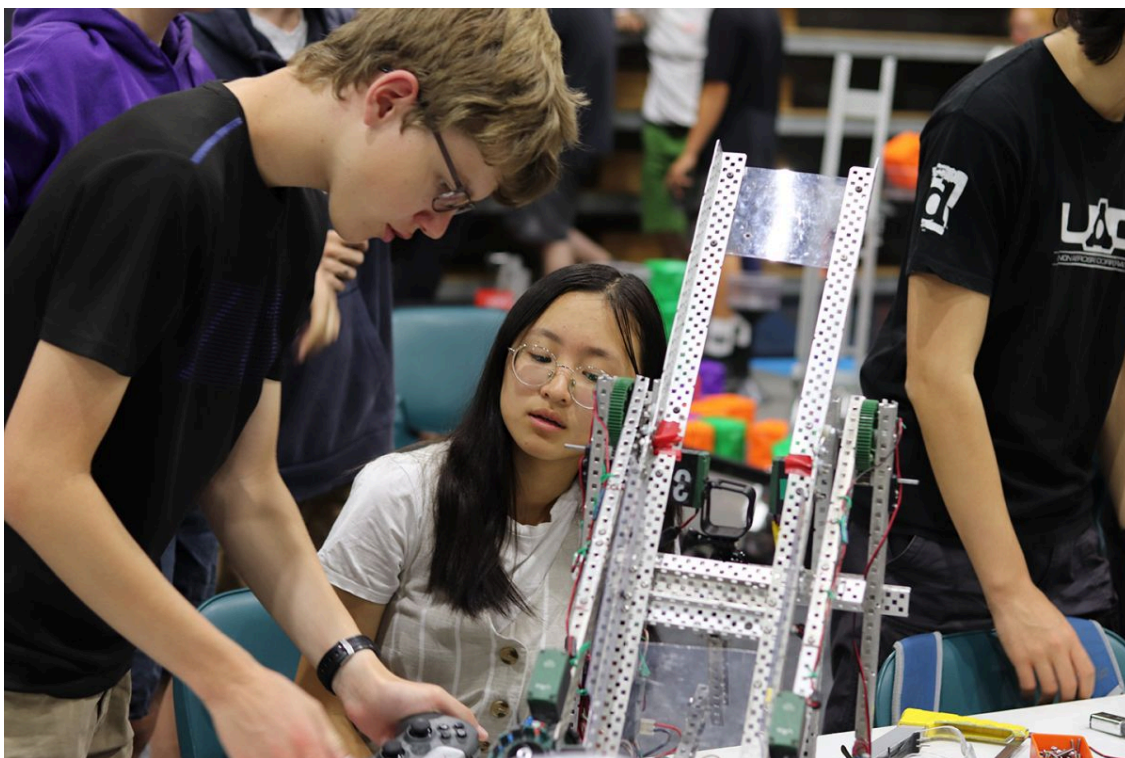
5pm. Entrants must include name, gender, school, city, age, year of study at school in 2020, email address, telephone contact and science teacher's name/phone/email.

The winners of the competition (aimed at Senior students) will be selected for their clear enthusiasm for astronomy, seniority, and good English in their submitted statement. Those who win the free registration/travel/accommodation will be notified around April 10.

If you need help with your statement, Mr Alarcon (room MH4) is happy to help.

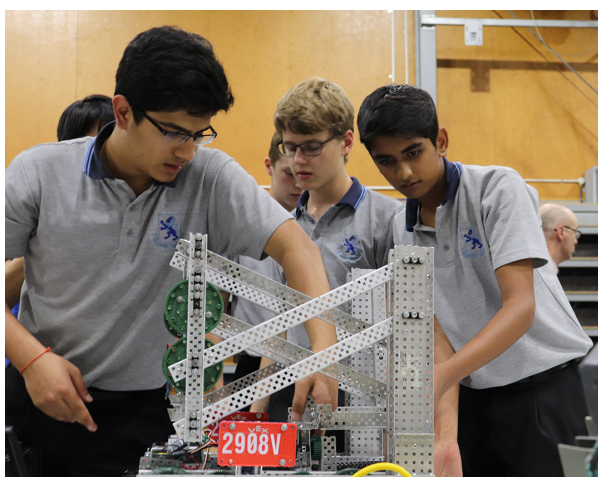
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## Robotics Club excels at Nationals



Last weekend, the MAGS Robotics Club competed in the 2020 New Zealand Vex Robotics Competition National Championships.

The Vex Robotics Competition is a global event in which teams design, build, program, and drive a robot to play in a game that changes year on year. This year's game involved stacking a pile of plastic cubes into small goal zones and placing cubes into raised cups up to around 1m tall.



This year, three teams (with a robot each) entered. One of them managed to place 25th out of 64, a great achievement considering the club's lack of a coach and not having the latest equipment. This robot entered the tournament-style eliminations rounds and performed admirably against the second and third-placed robots but lost the match by a close margin. The club will soon be recruiting for the new season, so be sure to keep an eye on the Daily Notices.

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## Tutoring Service at MAGS

The MAGS Academic Council runs an all-year-round peer tutoring service that any student can use.

The programme consists of experienced senior tutors assisting other students in their academic studies.

This service is open to all MAGS students for most subjects at both Junior Levels and all levels of NCEA. This programme will be highly beneficial for students who require further assistance with NCEA assessments, building a strong academic foundation at junior levels, or general guidance for subjects.

Tutoring can either be paid or free (where student tutors receive service points from the school) and you can have as many tutoring sessions as you need, (e.g. one or two before a test or for the whole year).

If you would like tutoring for your child, please email [tutoring@mags.school.nz](mailto:tutoring@mags.school.nz) with the following details:

- Subjects and year levels for which your child requires tutoring
- Whether you would prefer paid or free tutoring
- Any other preferences/relevant information

Once a tutor has been found they will communicate with your child to determine the location and times of tutoring sessions.

If you have any other queries or if your child would like to earn service points or money by becoming a tutor, please email [tutoring@mags.school.nz](mailto:tutoring@mags.school.nz).

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## Historical photos added to website



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

The image above is of nine of the 10 boys in 6A (Year 13s), in 1937 and was taken on the front steps with their form teacher, Mr Caradus.

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## 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.

Pictured above are the foundation staff of 1922.

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## Sports update

### Lizzy Robins in NZ archery team



Congratulations to Lizzy Robins, who has been selected in the New Zealand team (Youth Division) to go to the 2020 Oceania Archery Champs in Fiji next month.

Lizzy, who is part of the MAGS Archery team, has been a top performer in national competitions and in events across the Tasman.

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### Swimmers in the zone

After a successful school swimming sports, MAGS sent a team of 21 swimmers to compete at the Central East Zone swimming championships. The team had some great results with 10 top three placings in the individual events and 10 top three placings in the relay events. The Champion of Champions meet takes place on April 8 and qualifiers must have one of the top 16 times across all qualifying Zone championships.



#### **Top 3 Placings:**

**Intermediate Girls:** Amber George: 1st 50m Back; Edie Ancell: 1st 50m Free;

Anna McGowen: 3rd 50m Back; 1st 4x50m Free Relay; 3rd 4x50m Medley Relay.

**Intermediate Boys:** Quin Walden: 1st 50m Back; Yuki Uchida: 2nd 50m Fly, Bowen Crawford: 3rd 50m Breast; 2nd 4x50m Medley Relay; 3rd 4x50m Free Relay.

**Senior Girls:** Brearna Crawford: 1st 50m Fly, 1st 50m Breast, 1st 50m Free, 2nd 50m

Back; 1st 4x50m Free Relay; 2nd 4x50m Medley Relay

**Open Girls:** 1st 4x50m Fly Relay, 1st 4x50m Back Relay.

**Open Boys:** 2nd 4x50m Fly Relay; 2nd 4x50m Back Relay.

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## Milestone for Girls Cricket



For what is thought to be the first time ever, the Cricket Girls 1st XI beat St Kentigern College's 1st XI – and did it in convincing fashion on Wednesday.

MAGS made 161-1 (Eikham Singh 42, Shivani Unka 46 not out) and then rolled St Kents for 48, with Isabella Cain (pictured above) taking five wickets for nine runs and Natalie Brook taking three wickets for five runs.

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## Waka Ama crews dig it in



MAGS' Waka ama team competed well against strong opposition in the AKSS Senior Regatta last Saturday at Orakei Basin.

The Mixed W12 won their heat and finished 5th overall on time. The Boys W6 finished 5th in the 500m Open Championship Final.

The Girls W6 and Boys W6 both made the Open Championship 250m Final. The Girls finished 5th overall and the Boys finished 4th after racing with a paddle down, after one broke on the second stroke of their race.

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## 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 netball. 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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