



May 22, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

We're Back!



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

We've made it to the end of our first school week back on-site, post-lockdown. And what a triumphant week it has been!

To see our students pouring through the school gates on Monday morning was very special. Last week we called for courage ... courage to take those first steps onto the whenua of our school and put aside the natural apprehension and nervousness about restarting the school year.

MAGS students answered the call with confidence! To have our school filled again with the voices of young people was the testament to the importance of community in all of our lives.

The online learning experience has allowed us to nurture some form of connection at a distance – it served its purpose during the challenges of lockdown. But connecting digitally can never replace the authenticity of physical presence and proximity. If anything, the past seven weeks have taught us that.

2020 is proving to be a special year – possibly unique in the 99-year history of our school.

If the current positivity and energy around MAGS is anything to go by, 2020 has potential to be one of our greatest years ever!

We're back – and maybe even better than before!

Have a good weekend.

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Thursday, May 28

Junior Dance Performance
Group auditions, 7.30am, E10

Summer Sports Photos,
F.W. Gamble Hall

Monday, June 1

Queen's Birthday Holiday

Thursday, July 2

Last day of classes for Term 2



Sport



Winter Sport trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

Welcome to the new normal



At the end of the first week back at MAGS, Headmaster Patrick Drumm (pictured above with the Prefect Executive group) spoke about the courage and positivity of the student body in today's [Virtual Assembly](#). Mr Drumm also reinforced that the school's co-curricular activities were back up and running, and the transition to normal school life would be aided by students joining in the programmes in Sport, Culture, Arts or Service.

Also, Deputy Principal Tanya Rose (pictured right) provided an update on the revised NCEA exam timetable, and an email will go out about that.





Arts Challenge entries close Sunday

Be quick if you want to take part in the first MAGS Arts Challenge – entries close midnight this Sunday.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded for each year level, and Junior School students can earn Form Class points for entry and success.

Students are asked to express their feelings and ideas through the medium of either visual art, music, dance, drama, poetry or film-making. The theme for the first challenge is 'Colour'.

For inspiration, you can watch a video [here](#) about the colour orange (pictured right) that was made for the challenge.



All submissions must be between 30s

and 1m30s. There is a link [here](#) to register submissions or you can use the one on Google Classroom form pages. Save your entry to your drive and share with msykes@mags.school.nz

Michael Fatialofa's 'miracle' recovery



Photo / JMP

Albertian Michael Fatialofa (2006-10) continues to make a remarkable comeback from a horrific spinal injury suffered during an English Premiership rugby match four months ago. Videos of him walking again have gone viral after he suffered a vertebrae fracture and spinal contusion while playing for Worcester against Saracens. Doctors have dubbed his recovery 'a miracle' after he was stretchered off the field and spent three weeks in intensive care.

Michael played in MAGS' 1st XV from 2008 to 2010. In 2010, he was captain of the team that won the Auckland Championship, the New Zealand Championship and the Moascar



Cup. He was selected for the New Zealand secondary schools team that year as well.

From 2011 to 2014 he played for Southland and then returned to play for Auckland from 2015 to 2018. He also played for the Hurricanes from 2016 to 2018 with the team winning the Super Rugby title in 2016.

In 2018, he signed with the

Worcester Warriors (who he is pictured playing for in the photo at top). You can read a recent NZ Herald interview with the 27-year-old lock and see videos of his recovery [here](#) Michael is now walking 2km unaided and, once he has completed his rehab in an English spinal unit, plans to return to the family home in West Auckland.

His recovery is similar to that of Albertian Jack Ngametua, who was told he wouldn't walk again after breaking his spine in 1988 while playing rugby for MAGS.

Jack also had a long road to recovery but eventually he was able to play social badminton, and for the past 23 years has worked for the Auckland Badminton Association.

These days he works as their Stadium and Events Manager, and while he has had to flag the badminton recently, he says he can still get around by himself. You can read a Stuff story about Jack [here](#)

Jack's legacy lives on at the school: the trophy for the 'Best Tackler in First XV Rugby' is named after him.

Junior Dance auditions



MAGS Junior Performance Group Auditions ▶ open to all year 9 and 10 dancers

Thursday 28th May >>> 7:30 - 9:00am
E10 (Dance room)

make sure to bring a change of clothes
and a water bottle

Junior Dance Performance Group auditions for Year 9 and 10 dancers will be held in E10 next Thursday, May 28, starting at 7.30am

MAGS on Instagram

MAGS has rebooted its Instagram account – [@mountalbertgrammar](#) – and it will feature posts about all things MAGS across the four pillars: Arts and Culture, Service, Sport and Academic. We'll also be tagging the other, more niche MAGS Instagram accounts across those four pillars so you can follow their events and activities.



mountalbertgrammar

Mount Albert Grammar School
Mount Albert Grammar School official Instagram.
Zealand.
www.mags.school.nz

Smokefreerockquest via video



Owing to the current COVID-19 situation, bands and solo acts/duos will record and submit their songs for Smokefreerockquest and Smokefree Tangata Beats via video submission, to be viewed and assessed by judges along with the other entries in each region.

Each act will receive feedback from the judges.

Smokefreerockquest organisers will put the video submissions together to create virtual regional shows that will be posted on their social channels and website, so the competition can be followed through its various stages. Regional and National prizes will still be up for grabs. Video submissions due dates are:

- July 1 for Solo Acts/Duos
- July 24 for Bands and Smokefree Tangata Beats

For more info about the competition click [here](#)

Resumption of Sport

At this stage, College Sport has advised that plans are in place for the resumption of AKSS competitions from June 15.

Most Saturday sport is expected to begin on June 27 or July 4. Draws and a calendar of new events are expected to be published next week.

Students should register for their chosen sport and watch the Daily Notices for information about trials and training times.



Lumino Dental programme is back

The Lumino Dental Unit is scheduled to come to MAGS next Monday, May 25, and to stay until the end of Term 2.

The Lumino The Dentists, School Smiles Programme is fully funded by the Ministry of Health. It offers free dental examinations, oral health education, x-rays and a professional dental clean.

Treatment including white fillings, sealants and extractions of baby teeth are also provided on the school grounds as required. For other treatment not completed on board the unit, you will be referred to your local practice or orthodontic specialist.

To enrol your child in the programme, click [here](#)

You can read more about the programme and its COVID-19 Level 2 precautions in the letter sent out to parents [here](#)

Expand your mind with Astro Club

Voyager 1 reached interstellar space in August 2012 and is the most distant human-made object in existence.

Launched shortly after Voyager 2, in 1977, Voyager 1 explored the Jovian and Saturnian systems, making valuable discoveries in the outer solar system. Voyagers 1 and 2 are the

most well-travelled spacecraft in history. Both carry the Golden Record, a 12-inch gold-plated copper disk containing sounds and images portraying the story of our world to extraterrestrials. There are more fascinating insights about outer space on the MAGS Astronomy Club's Instagram [here](#)



Physio clinic open again

The Mount Albert Grammar School physio clinic – 09Physiotherapy – reopened on Monday.

Their top priority is the health and safety of their staff and clients during this time, so there will be rules and procedures in place. During COVID-19 Level 2 there will be:

- Appropriate physical distancing
- Contact tracing systems in place
- Health and safety requirements, including the use of PPE and infection control measures
- Contactless booking
- Spraying of surfaces and beds with disinfectant after each treatment
- No linen or pillows
- Emphasis on clients sanitising on entry and exit

To book a contactless appointment, students and staff will need to enter the clinic if there is no one else booking inside and stand two metres back from the reception desk to organise a suitable time.

You can also book via email at 09_Physiotherapy@outlook.com

Summer Sports photos next Thursday



Summer Sports photos will be taken next Thursday, May 28.

Students should arrive at the hall at least 10 minutes prior to their photo time and must be wearing the correct uniform.

For photo times and uniform details, click [here](#)

School shoes for Term 2

The School appreciates that the short period of time between the move to Alert Level 2 and the re-commencement of school may pose issues for some with regards to uniform items. In particular, access to and availability of winter shoes may be a challenge as retail stores re-open and gear up to meet demand.

Please note that MAGS students are permitted to wear sandals year-round if they so choose, and many do.

For other uniform items, the Lions' Den uniform shop is open Monday to Saturday next week. For opening hours, click [here](#)

Reliving past glories



The late Les Laursen was a member of the 1947 First XV, which won the Auckland Championship.

In the image above, he examines the Jubilee Cup for games against Auckland Grammar School. In 1947 the team defeated Auckland Grammar 20-0. The image below of the 1947 team has Les Laursen on the right in the front row. He also came back to teach at MAGS.

These images are part of Set 38, the most recent collection of historical images added to the website [here](#)

This is an ongoing collection of images sourced and annotated by our archivist, Brian Murphy.



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

Student Sport Spotlight



This week we feature Year 13 student and Senior Boys Athletics Champion Sila Esekielu, who also represents the school in volleyball, basketball and rugby. Sila talks about his sporting journey [here](#)

Trials and registrations



With trials back on, the Sports Department is asking students to register for sports in Term 2. 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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