



From the Acting Headmaster

Celebration of Diversity



Talofa lava, Kia Orana, Fakalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Bula, Boujour, As Salaam Alaikum, Hallo, Ni Hao, Konnichiwa, Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

MAGS is a place of diversity and inclusion.

At Mount Albert Grammar School, with 72 different nationalities specified and registered as belonging to our school community, cultural diversity is a given.

Across this week Samoan language and culture have been recognised and our Pasifika student leaders further modelled their cultural pride and promoted cultural awareness, merging MAGS school uniform, ie faitaga and puletasi.

Last night, a very different group of students gathered with their families in the Maurice Hall Atrium, to celebrate Iftar – the breaking of Ramadan fasting – and to share prayers and food together. This is a first for MAGS and, I hope, a true measure of our students' sense of belonging that they would choose their school to host this event, invite their teachers to join with them, and share their food as they broke their fasting.

Today, to mark the end of Samoan Language week, students were invited to wear their own cultural dress whether Pasifika or not. And many chose to, demonstrating the breadth and diversity of the cultural connections that co-exist across our school community.

A few days ago, I was privileged to attend a presentation by Nathan Wallace, parenting expert and psychologist, who identified a child's early and sustained connection with their own culture and language as a critical and important factor in building personal resilience.

The events of this week contribute to building this individual resilience, plus ongoing development of greater awareness, understanding and acceptance of the diversity that is our MAGS community.

I hope you all enjoy this long weekend and the opportunity to spend a little more time with family and friends.

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the 2019 Calendar

Monday, June 3
Queen's Birthday holiday

Tuesday, June 4
Staff Only Day



Sport

Photo Essays



Rugby League 1st XIII v Manurewa College, click [here](#)



Football Girls 1st XI v Takapuna Grammar, click [here](#)

Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)

Warm regards,

Jo Williams
Acting Headmaster

Sport trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

Samoan Language Week



To celebrate le vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa (Samoan Language Week), the Pasifika Student Council organised a range of activities.

There were prayers at assemblies in Samoan, performances at lunchtime, a staff versus students volleyball game, and a Cultural Dress Day today.

Staff and students were encouraged to dress in cultural attire today to celebrate their heritage or support other cultures. The Pasifika Student Council (pictured above with Pasifika Initiatives Coordinator Va Anisi) also collected gold coin donations to support events like the annual Pasifika Dinner.

Mrs Anisi said Samoan is the third most spoken language in Aotearoa but the second most spoken language in Auckland.

To all those who supported Samoan Language week, fa'afetai lava (many thanks)
For more photos from le vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa, click [here](#)



Takunda to address Parliament



Head Girl Takunda Muzondiwa has been invited to Parliament to share the powerful speech she delivered at the National Finals of the Race Unity Speech Awards.

Takunda is scheduled to speak on 20 June during National Volunteer Week. And she has been formally invited to speak at TEDxYouth@Christchurch. She made waves at the Race Unity Speech Awards with a [poetic and emotional speech](#) about race, equality and justice.

So much so, she appeared on TV3's current affairs show [The Project](#). Takunda made great use of her drama and poetry slam skills as she spoke about her Zimbabwean heritage, colonisation and overt, institutionalised and casual racism.

Staff, students and parents celebrate Iftar

Iftar was celebrated at MAGS last night. The event was organised by teachers Robina Nisha and Mohammed Tashmeer for the students at MAGS, their parents and teachers.

The Iftar meal is eaten by Muslim families after sunset, and it breaks the daytime fasting during Ramadan. The event was attended by Acting Headmaster Jo Williams, Deputy Principal Sarah Hayes, parents, students and other staff members.

The event aims to establish and reinforce relationships with the Muslim community at MAGS and promote a greater understanding of Islam.



Voting open for MAGS' Board of Trustees

Voting is now open for Mount Albert Grammar School's Board of Trustees, with 24 candidates having put themselves forward.

All those eligible to vote for MAGS' Board of Trustees should receive their ballot forms and voting instructions in the mail.

If you have not received your ballot papers by Monday, 3 June please contact the Business Manager at business@mags.school.nz and she will arrange for a new form to be created and emailed to you. Voting closes on June 7.

For the candidate statements, click [here](#)

Note: These statements and photos (where provided) are as they were submitted by the candidates.

Planned teacher strike action

Parents will be aware of further industrial action planned by the PPTA and this will affect the school over the next month.

Please see below the upcoming dates of scheduled action on which particular year groups will not be taught, and will be required to stay home from school.

Monday, 3 June	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday, 4 June	MAGS Staff Only Day – no students attending
Tuesday, 11 June	Year 10 Students rostered home - all other levels attend
Monday, 17 June	Regional Teacher Strike – no students attending
Tuesday, 25 June	Year 11 Students rostered home - all other levels attend
Tuesday, 2 July	Year 12 Students rostered home - all other levels attend

You will be advised as soon as possible should there be any subsequent changes to the actions as proposed.

Sunset farm trip

Esther Hancock, Head of Agriculture and Horticulture, took 13 Year 12 Agriculture students on an optional trip to Sunset, a sheep and beef farm near Port Waikato.

Sunset is owned by Rimaniui Farms, the largest landowner in the North Island. Students were able to meet farm staff including Katie, a shepherd only two years out of Taratahi College.

The staff were excellent teachers, and the students learned many aspects of sheep and beef farming. They also learned more about fencing and were able to watch a shearing



gang in action.

All the students reported it was a worthwhile and enjoyable visit and many are going to prepare CVs during their TeenAg meetings with a view to holiday work experience on a farm.

New barrier arm on main entrance

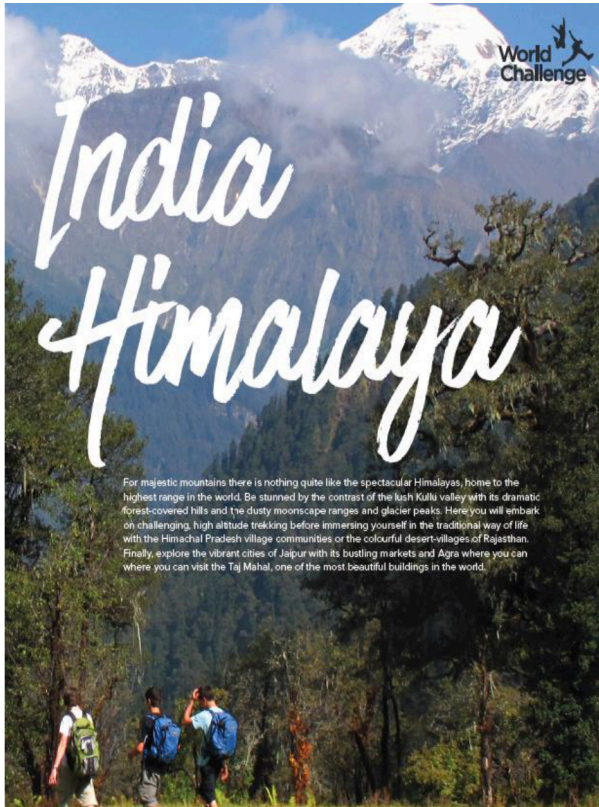


MAGS has a new barrier arm on the main entrance to the school grounds to control traffic. At the end of the school day, the barrier arm is closed from 3.10pm to 3.20pm to allow students to disperse safely.

Visitors to the school will need to keep this in mind when planning their arrivals and departures.

The barrier arm is on a timer, and on a daily basis it closes at 10.30pm and opens at 4.45am.

World Challenge trip



Applications are now open for students who are interested in the July 2020 World Challenge trip to India/Himalaya.

The World Challenge programme offers students the opportunity to plan, fund and ultimately lead their own 21-day long expedition next year in northern India. MAGS has been running these successful student-leadership expeditions since 2010.

You can get more information about the trip [here](#)

Reminder: Staff Only Day June 4

As previously advised, Tuesday, June 4 will be a Staff Only Day for Mount Albert Grammar School.

This is planned to allow catch-up examinations to occur for students who were unable to attend some specific examinations, and also provides an opportunity for the completion of examination administration and moderation meetings.

Please note that students in Years 9 to 13 are **NOT** required to attend school unless previously advised of the need to attend a catch-up examination.

Signing in and out of school

Should a student need to leave school early, they must sign out of school via the Student Centre – this includes pre-arranged departures or illness.

Should a student suddenly take ill while at school, they need to visit the School Nurse, who will assess the need to go home and ensure their attendance reflects exactly what has taken place.

Health & Safety regulations guide the requirement for your child to sign out, specifically related to school-based emergencies such as a fire.

In such an event, if a student is marked present at school and has left without signing out, we have a duty of care to check our facilities to locate them in case they are unable to exit a building. Please ensure your child is aware of this requirement.

Understanding Your Teen – Part Two



Off the back of last year's exclusive presentation to MAGS parents, we are excited to announce a second instalment of 'Understanding Your Teen' on Thursday, June 6 at 7pm in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Come and hear some tips and stories about Kiwi teenagers and their habits – and ponder some new ideas on how to relate to these wonderful young people. Brought to you by [Parenting Place](#)

Sports update

[Orienteering boys win relay champs](#)



MAGS Boys Orienteers won the Auckland Schools Relay Championships last week, while the Girls team finished fourth in their highest ever showing in a very competitive environment.

The boys won the Championships with 27 points, finishing far ahead of Pukekohe High School with 13 points and Rosmini in third with 5 points.

In the Senior Boys race, Thomas Brendolise, Adam Bateman (capt) and Mitchell Cooper won the title, finishing a massive 16 minutes ahead of second place.

The Intermediate Boys finished first and second with Tom Aish, Daniel Wood, Luke Clements, Sam Taylor-Sinclair, Angus Edwards and Callum Wishart all having excellent runs, fresh from their Estonia World Schools bronze medals.

The Junior Boys finished second with Nelson Mitchell, Tiaho Murupaenga-Hutchings and Jay McElwee. Also a strong run from Justin Brendolise in the team that finished fifth.

The Senior Girls had an outstanding finish of third place with Isla Thompson (capt), Ayleigh Loomes and Jydee Leonard all running exceptionally well.

In the Intermediate Girls we showed great strength in depth with two teams placing 6th and 9th – with an excellent run from Eva Wadsworth

The Junior Girls finished an excellent 6th place out of 20 teams with good runs from Evie Thompson, Eva Persson and Ella Edwards.

The highlight of the event was Callum Wishart out-sprinting Westlake Boys leading orienteer in the finishing control to take second place.

Overall these are outstanding results that show great depth and are a good build-up to the North Island Championships in July.

Sharp performances at tournament



MAGS had six teams compete at the North Harbour Secondary Schools Tournament, with the Premier 1 and the two Year 10 teams winning their sections.

The tournament on Tuesday, May 21 was contested by schools from Auckland, the North Shore and Kerikeri.

There were some big wins, tough losses and close games throughout the day for each of the MAGS teams.

Our **Premier 1** team (pictured above) had a tough loss first-up by one point against a hungry Rangitoto team. The team re-grouped after this loss to find the motivation for the rest of the day, winning the next games to make the final against Epsom Girls Grammar. The final was a close battle against a strong EGGs side. The MAGS girls played some great netball and came away with the win 18-16.

Premier 2 had a great day and built some very good connections on the court. They won all their games and earned a spot in the finals. The final was a tough game going goal-for-goal against Westlake 2. After a good fight our Premier 2 team went down by one goal.

Our Year 10 1 and Year 10 2 teams had a very successful day winning their sections. **Year 10 Firebirds** had some big wins and also close games, drawing with Westlake in the last game of the day. However, they won the section by goal percentage. **Year 10 Giants** developed great connections on and off the court, which resulted in winning their section. The Year 9 competition was a very competitive one with some close games amongst Westlake, Epsom and MAGS. Our **Year 9 Mystics** and **Year 9 Stars** both improved throughout the court and especially in their connections and teamwork.

Honda enjoy the heat of the haka



Japanese rugby side the Honda HEAT had a light training run on the Sir BG Williams Field yesterday ahead of their pre-season game against a Blues side today at Eden Park. School House boys performed a rousing haka for the visitors, who responded with a couple of songs. School House boy and First XV player Orion Schmok was also presented with a HEAT team jersey.



Xterra opens at Shakespear Park



The first Xterra Trail Race of the winter series saw keen MAGS runners line up at Shakespear Regional Park.

All students raced strongly over the hills, protected wetlands and beaches of Shakespear. Many new runners joined the Xterra series and enjoyed their first of six races on Sunday, May 19.

After the first event, MAGS is placed third in the Teams Competition.

The next race is on June 9 at Waitawa Regional Park.

Individual Placings:

4th – John Stirling (Short Course)

5th – Jacob Bannister (Short Course)

8th – Bryn Williams (Short Course)

4th – Holly Bannister (Short Course)

7th – Sonali Mistry (Short Course)

9th – Bella Houghton (Short Course)

10th – Ruby Pengelly (Short Course)

7th – Oliver Bulman (Mid Course)

Upcoming Premier sport



Premier teams have the weekend off, with little sport played over the weekend due to Queen's Birthday.

Next Wednesday, the Rugby League 1st XIII are away to Aorere College at 4pm, the Football Girls 1st XI are away to Diocesan at 4pm, and the Hockey Boys 1st XI play St Peter's at Avondale College.

On Thursday, the Premier Girls Lacrosse are away to Avondale at 4pm, while the Hockey Girls 1st XI play Pakuranga College at Lloyd Elsmore Park at 5pm.

Fixtures and results on the MAGS website are regularly updated. For this week's, click [here](#) and for next week's, click [here](#)



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