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A Tradition of Excellence
9th-14th May 2022



November 13, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

[Weekly Notices](#)

Duces Extraordinaire – and a 99-Year First for MAGS!



[Key Dates](#)

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



Monday, November 16

NCEA Exams start

Thursday, November 19

Teacher-Only Day

Tuesday, November 24

Junior Bytes Concert,
Centennial Theatre, 7pm

**Tuesday & Wednesday,
December 1 & 2**

Junior School Interform
Competition

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

Our Senior Prizegiving on Tuesday saw a celebration of academic excellence culminating in the announcement of the Boys and Girls Duces for 2020.

Congratulations to our 16th Girls' Dux – Caitlin Mitchell, and to our 99th Boys' Dux – Matthew Somerville (pictured above). Both of these students have shone through a highly academic group of senior students to claim the premier awards in our school. Matthew has broken new ground at MAGS with the Boys' Dux going to a Year 12 student for the first time in the 99-year history of the school.

Not surprisingly, both students have won University Scholarships for next year with Caitlin heading to the University of Canterbury to pursue an Engineering Degree, while Matthew commences a conjoint degree in Computational Biology and Music at the



Sport

Photo Essay



AKSS Junior Girls Volleyball

Click [here](#)

University of Auckland. Both students are destined for stellar academic careers and we will follow their progress with much interest.

Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)

Congratulations to all of our 2020 academic prize winners and to every student who is closing in on their academic goals for this year. You have triumphed in the face of adversity and your school is very proud of you!

Enjoy the weekend.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

History made at Senior Prizegiving



On Tuesday at Senior Prizegiving, Matthew Somerville became the first Year 12 student to be named Dux in the history of Mount Albert Grammar School.

He was the Top Boys Academic alongside Caitlin Mitchell, who was named Girls Dux during the ceremony held in the FW Gamble Hall.

As Academic Dean Mr Gibbs said of Matthew, "This year's boys' dux is a quite remarkable young man with great talent in every subject he studies. Not once has he gained anything less than excellence in any NCEA standard: 268 excellence credits out of 268. No-one has done that in our school before."

Mr Gibbs said of Caitlin, "This year's girls' dux is a science-mathematics specialist with highly developed skills in foreign language and Geography. She has passed all three levels of NCEA with excellence, with 92 excellence credits out of 92 at Level Three."

Both Matthew and Caitlin won a slew of other awards on the day, which you can see along with all the other prize-winners, scholarship recipients and certificate awardees [here](#)

Proxime Accessits were Bailey Bennett and Head Boy Eric Shen (pictured above right), who was also named Best All-Round Boy in Year 13, while his counterpart, Head Girl Megan Williams, picked up the award for Best All-Round Girl in Year 13 (both in main picture at top).

The pair were also awarded Chris Liddell Scholarships, which are each worth \$5000 per year for three years and are granted to students who show strong academic potential and are also good all-rounders. They were presented by Albertian Chris Liddell's brother John Liddell.

Alexander Pullen won the prestigious Woolf Fisher Scholarship, which his father James had also won in 1990. The top teaching awards were also presented. Science Teacher Pat Barrett received the Herb Towers Travel Prize for a professional development trip overseas. Chris Liddell also awards Teacher Scholarships worth \$10,000 each for excellence in teaching and contribution to the school, and these went to Waimirirangi Paul (Head of Te Puna o Wairaka) and Simone Connell (Specialist Classroom Teacher).

Lucy Woodall and Oliver Bulman (pictured above right) were named Best All Round Year 12 Girl and Boy respectively, while Nishera Gnanendra and Calvin Pooley received the equivalent awards for Year 11.

You can see more photos from the prizegiving [here](#)



Reminder: Teacher-Only Day

A reminder that next Thursday, 19 November, is a Ministry of Education-sanctioned teacher-only day.

This day is the first of a series scheduled to continue across 2021 and 2022. All Year 9 and 10 students will remain home on this day to provide teachers the opportunity to learn of the proposed changes to NCEA Level 1.

Sole Gold Lion recipient for 2020



The only Gold Lion awarded in 2020 – for gaining Lion badges in Academia, Arts, Sport and Service – went to Andre Pickering.

Andre, who is a skilled guitarist, has had an incredible year, being named Victor Ludorum, Best All-Round Maori Student, and picking up a University of Auckland Scholarship.

Te Puna o Wairaka Prizegiving Dinner



Te Puna o Wairaka recognised its top students and sent its Year 13 Leavers off into the world with an emotional farewell at the Celebration Dinner last night at Te Mahurehure Marae.

Guest speaker Dr Jennifer Martin encouraged the Leavers and Te Puna o Wairaka students

to continue their te reo journey, saying it would open up some wonderful opportunities. Dr Martin (pictured below right), who is a graduate of the kura at West Auckland's Hoani Waititi Marae, went on to the University of Auckland and gained a PhD with her thesis written entirely in te reo Māori. She is now a Māori Studies educator and runs a Māori language consultancy.

Dr Martin urged the students to pursue their dreams, and not let any naysayers put them off achieving their goals.

As well as haka from the departing and remaining students, the event – MC'ed by students Breanna Waka and Isaiah Nin – featured a song by Albertian and Te Puna alumni Abbey-Jean Kaipara, who was backed by Andre Pickering on guitar.

During his speech, Headmaster Patrick Drumm called Te Puna HOD Waimirangi Paul on to the stage to pay tribute to her work, which was recognised earlier in the week at Senior Prizegiving with her receiving a CP Liddell Teaching Scholarship.

When it came to the awards, Andre Pickering won the Top Senior Academic Award, was named All-Round Top Senior Student, and Top Sportsman.

Tayla Bamber won the "Manu Tute"

Award For Services to Puna and the wider community, while Niuia Pomare-Khanna received the "He toka tū" Award For Contribution to Kapa Haka.

Kobe-Ray Cameron was All-Round Top Junior Girl, and the All-Round Top Junior Boy was Hokioramai Dunn. The Top Junior Academic Award went to Mihimere Hope.

The award for Top Senior Māori Language Orator went to Niuia Pomare-Khanna, and Mihimere Hope was named Top Junior Māori Language Orator.

When it came to sports achievement, Waimarie Tawera won the top junior award.

In their farewell speeches, Niuia Pomare-Khanna and Tayla Bamber, who both served as Deputy Head Prefects in 2020, paid tribute to Whaea Waimirangi Paul and Matua Peter Walters for the vast amount of time they invested in their students whether it was in course work or in kapa haka. They both said that Te Puna o Wairaka and MAGS had given them great opportunities academically and culturally.

You can see more photos from the dinner [here](#)





Arts Awards Dinner



The wealth of talent in Performing Arts, Visual Art and Media Studies was recognised and celebrated at the Arts Award Dinner held at Sorrento in the Park last Friday, November 6. For the second year running, Faolan Okan (above left) was named Boys Dux Artium while Lara Chuo (above centre) picked up the equivalent Girls award.

Faolan, an Arts Prefect, is a student of Dance, Drama and Media Studies who has 24 credits at Excellence already in Arts subject in 2020. He also won Best Male Actor, Best Filmmaker and the Leadership in Dance Award at this year's dinner. He was Junior Dux

Artium in 2017, and his extra-curricular activities include being part of the World Hip Hop Champion dance crew the Swagganauts and recently having a lead role in a NZ short film.

Lara is a student of Dance, Drama, Media Studies and Painting, who has 28 credits at Excellence in Arts subjects in 2020. She also won Best Female Actor, Best Female Dance Performer and the Excellence in Arts Management award at the dinner.

She is a member of MAGS' NZ champion Hip Hop Megacrew, and was chosen for the National Shakespeare Schools Production for her performance in the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare competition.

Lara is the Head Arts Prefect, Leader and Choreographer for the Chinese dance group, and was Junior Dux Artium in 2017.

MCs for the night Abby Irwin and David Laxon welcomed guests and introduced several performances: Tali Afele singing *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas* backed by Eric Shen on Piano; a scene from *Macbeth* performed by Molly Cavanagh, Lara Chuo and Sarah Norman; and a song performed by Tali Afele, Tuiaki 'Otulau and Niuia Pomare-Khanna.

You can see more photos [here](#) and a full list of award winners [here](#)



Junior Bytes tickets on sale Wednesday



Tickets for the Junior Bytes Performing Arts and Music concert go on sale next Wednesday and can be purchased at the Finance Office.

The concert, at 7pm on Tuesday, November 24 at the Centennial Theatre, will feature Dance, Drama and Music performances from our talented Juniors.

Ticket prices: Adults \$20, Students and Pensioners \$15, Under-12 and MAGS Students and Staff \$10.

Prefects for 2021 announced

MAGS is very excited to announce the leadership group who have been chosen from an exceptional field of students through a rigorous process.

The Prefect's role carries great responsibility around service leadership and guardianship of our school culture.

All 2021 Prefects must attend the compulsory Prefects Convention (Friday, 11 December – Sunday, 13 December) to be held at MAGS School House this year.

The current Head Boy (Eric Shen) and Head Girl (Megan Williams) will hand over the korowai donated by the Gallagher-Sullivan family to their successors when the Head Boy and Head Girl for 2021 are announced.

Congratulations to all our 2021 Prefects on their appointment. We trust that the 2021 Year 13 student body will support this group in their significant role.



2021 Prefects:

Hannah Adye, Tali Afele, Morgan Aiono, Edie Ansell, Matthew Batcheler, William Bell-Purchas, Henri Blakeley, Emeline Bloomfield, Maria Boow, Samara Brain, Sylvia Brunt, Oliver Bulman, Amelia Caltaux, Nate Carroll, Mingi Cho, Luke Clements, Matthew Denby, Grace Duan, Angus Edwards, Leilani Ginnen, Nofolisi Hala, Justin Hemara, Hana Hilson, Stanley longi, Humeera Imran, Rosa Jack, Char'lee Jones, Reet Kamra, Lance Law, Jovis Meredith, Nicole Muir, Keertivaasan Prakash, Xander Pritchard, Marcus Savelio, Genevieve Taua, Boston Tofa, Pasilika Ulugia-Pua, Ullrich Von Reiche, Sophie Vu, Ella Vuetilovoni, Breanna Waka, Lucy Woodall.

Year 13s' Last Day



Monday was a day of high emotion for our Year 13 Leavers, who celebrated their journey at MAGS. After the final ringing of the school bell, students moved inside the FW Gamble Hall for their last Assembly featuring speeches from Headmaster Patrick Drumm, Head Boy Eric Shen and Head Girl Megan Williams, and Year 13 Deans Mrs Anisi and Mr Coup. Afterwards, students signed each other's shirts, enjoyed a sausage sizzle and some songs from the staff band MAGnitude in the Albertian Quad.





Old Boys show winning touch



Albertian Hockey Internationals: Arun and Jared Panchia and Brian Rogers

Last Friday, November 6, at the Auckland Grammar School turf our 1st XI Hockey Boys played the MAGS Old Boys.

Hockey Director Mark Dempster said, "We had 17 Old Boys play, ranging from Bob Iswar and Glynn Clarke, who attended MAGS in the 1980s, to players who had only recently left

school.



"It was a very entertaining and competitive match with the 1st XI creating a number of chances. However, it was the Old Boys who showed their class through the midfield and were more lethal in the circle, winning the game 6-2.

"There was a good crowd watching the game and an equally impressive gathering at The Good Home for the after-match celebrations".

The Old Boys had Black Sticks Arun and Jared Panchia, as well as current Auckland player Shae Iswar playing. There were also a number of premier club players on show, making for a high standard of hockey from both teams.

Mr Dempster added, "We had a number of vintage Old Boys turn up to add flavour to the match. Owen Hayward was captain in 1954, Pat Kika in 1972 and Barvant Soma in 1979. Brian Rogers, who is pictured presenting the cup to the captain of the Old Boys team, Tom Guy, also attended the match, being MAGS first NZ Hockey representative in 1967.

"This used to be a regular fixture with the Campbell Cup up for grabs. It is hoped this can again be a focal point for the end of the season and be a part of a bigger occasion in our Centenary year with more sports involved."



Rusty the Calf's star turn



Last Sunday, Rusty the Calf was the star attraction at Alberton's Market Day. A huge crowd turned out for the open day that the historic home regularly holds, and many flocked to see and feed Rusty, who had made the short journey from the ASB MAGS Farm. The next Market Day, which features food and craft stalls, is Sunday, December 13.

Ringling in a new era

On Monday, the last day for Year 13s, the noticeably shiny School Bell was rung five times by Deputy Head Prefect Bethany Fletcher to represent the Leavers' five years at MAGS. The brass bell had just been reinstalled after being sent off for refurbishment. It was donated to MAGS by the Mount Albert Fire Brigade in 1927, and up until the mid-1970s – when it was superseded by a more modern system – was used to signify change of periods etc. It was often rung by the Head Prefect or by a boy from the top fourth form class (4A).



Hands-on lesson



This week, some Year 13s needed to go to the Roy Clements Treeway for an internal assessment so they and Science Teacher Mr Dockery decided to take some rubbish buckets along as well and tidy up while they were down there. Visual Art Teacher Ms Leonard accompanied the team, who were complimented on their clean-up work by passersby.

BYOD Drop-in Question Time

Parents and caregivers of new students enrolled for 2021 may have questions about devices in addition to the information provided on the school website. Deputy Principal John Stradwick and Elise Goddard, the Director of E-Learning, will be available to answer these questions. A selection of devices will be available to view.

Date: Tuesday ,17 November, 2020

Venue: Murray Nairn Library

Time: 3.30pm to 6.30pm (Please drop in at any time with your questions)

Purchasing a Device

To assist with purchasing a device, the school has arranged special pricing with Cyclone Computing and PB Tech via [this link](#). Noel Leeming will give education pricing if you mention the device is for school use.

Other retailers will also offer special deals worth considering in the lead-up to Christmas and in January. We find that pricing is very sharp at those times.

If buying a new device for 2021, please note that a laptop will be more suitable for years

11-13.

For any queries, contact Director of E-Learning Elise Goddard via e-mail: egoddard@mags.school.nz

Special offers from Noel Leeming and Torpedo 7



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A HUGE RANGE OF GEAR

Until November 15, Noel Leeming Ltd is offering special pricing to the MAGS Community on a very large range of goods at the **St Lukes MEGA Centre Store in Wagener Place**, which is much larger than the store inside the mall. Please read this [flyer](#) carefully to see what is on offer.

Until November 17, Torpedo 7 is also offering special pricing. Please note from this [flyer](#) that this offer is for any store in the Auckland region and also for online purchases.

Year 8 testing and trials





Year 8 Girls had their Academic Testing yesterday morning and Sports Academy Trials in the afternoon, and today it was the Year 8 Boys' turn to follow that routine.

For those that missed out this week, there is an additional Sports Academy Trial on Tuesday, November 17 (12.30pm) and further Academic Testing on Monday, November 30 (8.30am). Those doing Academic Testing should meet at the Student Centre with a pen and pencil.

Albertians luncheon & AGM



Our end of year Albertians Luncheon – preceded by the Albertians Association AGM – will be held at School House on Tuesday, 24 November.

The AGM is at 12.15pm, and the luncheon at 12.30pm. At the luncheon, our Headmaster Patrick Drumm will welcome guests and speak about our Centenary plans for 2022.

The cost of the luncheon is \$35 per person. Payment can be prepaid online to the Albertians Association account (12 3029 0376398 00) using your first name and surname as a reference – or by cash, cheque or EFTPOS at School House on the day.

Please RSVP by Friday, 13 November to Emma John, Events Manager, either by email: events@mags.school.nz or by phone: (09) 846 2044 extn 8198 and leave a message.

School House in 1927



This photo was taken in the first year that School House opened for boys to board at MAGS. There are 23 of the 26 boys shown along with the Senior Housemaster, Mr HL Towers, and the Matron, Mrs M Walker.

You can see more photos like this as part of Historical Images on the MAGS website [here](#)

Sign up to the Centenary database



As we get closer to our Centenary in 2022, with events planned for May 9-14, 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

Adi's bowling heroics

Terrific performance from MAGS' Boys Cricket 1st XI Captain Adi Ashok playing for Auckland A on Wednesday when he took 4-44 against Wellington A at Ken Maunder Park. Adi also took a catch in the field as Auckland A, who posted 317/8 off their 40 overs, defeated Wellington A by 156 runs.

Pictured with Adi is Auckland A opener Colin Munro, who blasted 183 off 118 balls in the win.



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