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November 3, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Key Dates

Our Primary Pillar!



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

Senior Prizegiving this week saw our top academic students recognised for their achievements in the year to date.

Over 250 students from Years 11 to 13 were called onto the stage to receive premier awards for the highest level of success in academic subjects. A range of additional

prestigious awards were also presented, acknowledging students who have provided outstanding service and dedication to MAGS throughout the year.

Scholarships and special financial awards saw Year 13 students receive over \$500,000 to support them as they head to tertiary study! Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of universities, tertiary providers and MAGS Alumni, these fortunate recipients will enjoy the best start to their undergraduate year.

Celebrations culminated with the announcement of the 2023 Boys and Girls Dux.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Saturday, November 4
School Leavers Ball, Pullman Hotel, 6pm

Monday, November 6
NCEA Exams begin

Monday, November 13
Teacher Only Day – Juniors study at home

Tuesday, November 14 to Thursday, November 16
Junior Exams

Monday, November 20
Junior Arts Assembly

Wednesday, November 29
Year 9 Interform Competition

Thursday, November 30
Year 10 Interform Competition

Tuesday, December 5
Junior Prizegivings:
Year 10 at 9.30am
Year 9 at 12.30pm



Congratulations to Ella Edwards and Oscar Tang, pictured above, on gaining these pinnacle awards in the MAGS academic year. These students join the list of duces from the previous 101 years – and will soon have their names recorded permanently in gold on our Honours Board.

Congratulations to all of our academic prize-winners. The challenge is now to replicate your success in the upcoming NCEA and Scholarship Examinations.

We wish you all the best!

Have a good weekend!

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Sport

Photo Essay



Softball Junior Girls v Epsom
Girls Grammar

Click [here](#)

Fixtures and Results

Click [here](#)



Our Lion Fund programme aims to provide financial support to allow every MAGS student to access the breadth of opportunities we offer at our school.

Donate to the Lion Fund now

Senior Prizegiving



Professor Peter Phillips with our Girl and Boy Dux, Ella Edwards and Oliver Tang.

Senior Prizegiving on Tuesday was a celebration of academic excellence, leadership and service to the school in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Professor Peter Phillips presented our Girl and Boy Dux, Ella Edwards and Oliver Tang respectively, with the Centennial Cups for Dux, which he kindly donated last year.

Head Prefects Taiarahia Moata'ane-Mika and Olivia Bennett were MCs for the event and gave their farewell speeches, reflecting on their time at MAGS. There were also two musical items by our award-winning Centennial Choir.

In 2023, the prestigious Gold Lion was awarded to five students: Ashleigh Muir, Hokioramai Dunn, Olivia Bennett, Jude Wilson and India O'Neill. The Gold Lion is awarded to students who have gained all four lions – in Academia, Arts, Service and Sport.

C.P. Liddell Scholarships, worth \$15,000 each, were presented by John Liddell to Olivia Bennett, Ella Edwards, Taiarahia Moata'ane-Mika and Oliver Tang.

Our Boys and Girls Proxime Accessit for 2023 are Mattis Elwarth and Ella Graves respectively, pictured right. Mattis was also the recipient of the Woolf Fisher Memorial Scholarship, worth \$3000 a year for three years.

The Prefects' Cup for the Best All-Round Girl in Year 13 was awarded to Olivia Bennett, while Taiarahia Moata'ane-Mika was awarded the F.W. Gamble Memorial Cup for the Best All-Round Boy in Year 13.

The Jim Greatbanks Mount Albert Grammar School Engineering Scholarship was awarded to Anatol Coen.

Jamie Eickhoff and Leila Belt were honoured for Service to the School with the Isaac Gray Cup and the Girls' Foundation Cup respectively.

Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich and Celestine Howard were the winners of the Neville Watson

Memorial Prize for the Student who Best Typifies the Spirit of Mount Albert Grammar School, while Hanna Moy was awarded the Sylvia Lamb Benevolence Cup.

The Harry Wichman Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Boy was awarded to Ryan Shen, while the The Linda Fraser Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Girl was awarded to Rosa Fox.

The Warwick Gibbs Cup for the Best All-Round Boy in Year 11

was awarded to Reuben Adye, and the Brian Murphy Cup for the Best All-Round Girl in Year 11 was awarded to Anna Batcheler.

The Best All-Round International Boy and Girl were Zhong Allen Long and Phonephimonh Monh Sabanhdit.

The Hanson Cup for Senior Progress and Endeavour for Year 12 Boys was presented by David and Robert Hanson to Lize Deng, while the Yevette Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 12 Girls went to Asinate Waqalevu.

The Jo Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 11 Girls was awarded to Piper O'Neill, and The Robert Willmott Memorial Prize for Quality of Effort for Year 11 Boys went to Epeli Prescott.

You can see more photos and the full list of prizewinners [here](#)



Our Gold Lion winners for 2023 are, from left, Ashleigh Muir, Hokioramai Dunn, Olivia Bennett, Jude Wilson and India O'Neill.

2024 Prefects announced

MAGS is very excited to announce our 2024 leadership group who have been chosen from an exceptional field of students through a rigorous process.

2024 Prefects

Eved Ah Soon, Ryan Antia, Arshiya Arora, Nishka Arora, Quinn Bell-Purchas, Isabella Boersen, Dorothy Brunt, Sam Carryer, Darcy Clark, Alistair Clarke, Lisi Crichton, Lily Curnow, Lize Deng, Oscar Duffy, Iose Fatuleai, Stanley Fifita, Toby Forster, Rosa Fox, Joseph Gracie, Ethan Green, Noah Gregory, Seungyong Han, Chase Hartley, Max Jarvie, Sienna Laskey, Henri Le Cren, Rose Leader, Emily Lyon, Hailey Martin, Brianna McCready, Grace Moon, Emma Newland, Ella Nguyen, Elijah Poliko, Jonelle Puletiuatoa, Charlotte Pullen, Sophie Rednall, Te Arini Roberts, Shubhi Roy, Ryan Shen, Ava Siakimotu, Dishita Singh, Priyansh Singh, Hugh Skinner, Anika Todd, Asinate Waqalevu, Joshu Waqanivalu.

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

Our 2024 Prefect Executive will be announced after the compulsory Prefects' Camp (December 3 to 6) to be held at MAGS' School House.

Congratulations to all our 2024 Prefects on their appointment. We trust that the 2024 Year 13 student body will support this group in their significant role.

Te Puna o Wairaka Prizegiving



Last night's Te Puna o Wairaka Dinner was a time for MAGS' ākonga, whānau and kaiako to come together to reflect on and celebrate a great year for Puna.

Our Puna Leavers were also recognised and farewelled with speeches and haka.

The awards dinner at Te Mahurehure Marae was MC'ed by Puna students Te Arini Roberts

and Pomare Schulz, and featured Albertian (2009-2013) and NZ representative weightlifter Aotea Frandi as guest speaker.

Aotea, pictured below right, said that she wanted to be a top netballer when she came to MAGS but soon realised the competition was too great and shifted her focus to Athletics and Sevens. She was still searching for her niche when our late First XV coach Mr Moon told her that her "Ngāpuhi legs" were more suited to weightlifting. From there, she went on to represent New Zealand, winning a bronze at the Oceania Weightlifting competition in 2016.

Aotea said that success was driven by her strategy of setting goals and plotting a path to achieve them, something she applied to her career in Psychology: she is working on her PhD as part of the University of Auckland Clinical Psychology program and working with youth at residential facilities.



School House Head Prefect Hokioramai Dunn spoke on

behalf of the Year 13 Leavers and expressed their gratitude to the Puna whānau and to Whaea Waimirangi Paul and Matua Peter Walters for all the time and energy they had invested in their students' success.

When it came to the awards, Mihimere Hope won the Top Senior Academic Award and the "Manu Tute" Award For Services to Puna and the wider community, while Hokioramai was named All-Round Top Senior Student and won the "He toka tū" Award For Contribution to Kapa Haka.

Brooklyn Smith-Boyd was All-Round Top Junior Girl and Top Junior Academic, and the All-Round Top Junior Boy was Bailey Hamilton.

The award for Top Senior Māori Language Orator went to Awanui Hope, and Kamaukiterangi Mikaere was named Top Junior Māori Language Orator.

When it came to sports achievement, Jackson and Johnny Thompson won the top junior award and Waimarie Tawera the top senior award.

Guests were also entertained by Hokioramai Dunn, Tyler Ngawati and Lisi Crichton, who performed a rendition of *Tōku reo, tōku ohooho*.

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



Arts Awards Dinner



The Arts Awards Dinner last Friday was a wonderful occasion that not only celebrated the talents of our students but also showcased them with music and drama performances, a Dance video, and displays of Visual Art and video-making.

Congratulations to our Dux Artiums for 2023, Jacob Cameron and Natasha Greenway, pictured above with Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan.

Natasha is a student of Art History, Design and Painting and has 24 Level 3 Credits at Excellence across these subjects prior to external examinations. She is an Arts Lion awardee and has been an Outstanding Visual Arts leader in Pottery, Communities of MAGS and Mural projects. She is a Pat Hanley Arts Award recipient and won three prizes at the



Arts Awards Dinner: Excellence in Painting, GI Shuker Senior Arts Cup and Leadership in Arts History.

Jacob is a student of Dance and Media and has 22 Level 3 credits at Excellence in this year prior to external examinations. He is a two-time Arts Lion awardee and Arts Prefect, as well as a Dance leader who led the MAGS Megacrew to victory in the NZ Secondary Schools competition and was also principal choreographer for this group. Despite his commitment to

excellence at school, he still managed to maintain a brutal training schedule for the NZ Hip Hop Championships and get two first placings, and then went on to the World Championships where he won two silver medals.

At the Arts Awards Dinner he also won prizes for Outstanding Individual Performance in Dance, Leadership in Dance, Excellence in Film Making and Outstanding Individual Extra-curricular Representation.

The awards evening, which was MC'ed by Bella Houghton and Olivia Bennett, pictured above, also saw several performances: Violani Afoa sang *If I Ain't Got You*, accompanied by Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich on keys, pictured below; Emma Newland and Juwan Houma performed an extract from *Pride and Prejudice*; Solomon Woods and William Tinnock-Jones sang *Cyclone*; and there were also video presentations by the Dance Department and Media Studies.

You can see more photos and all the prizewinners [here](#)



Fun-filled Leavers Day

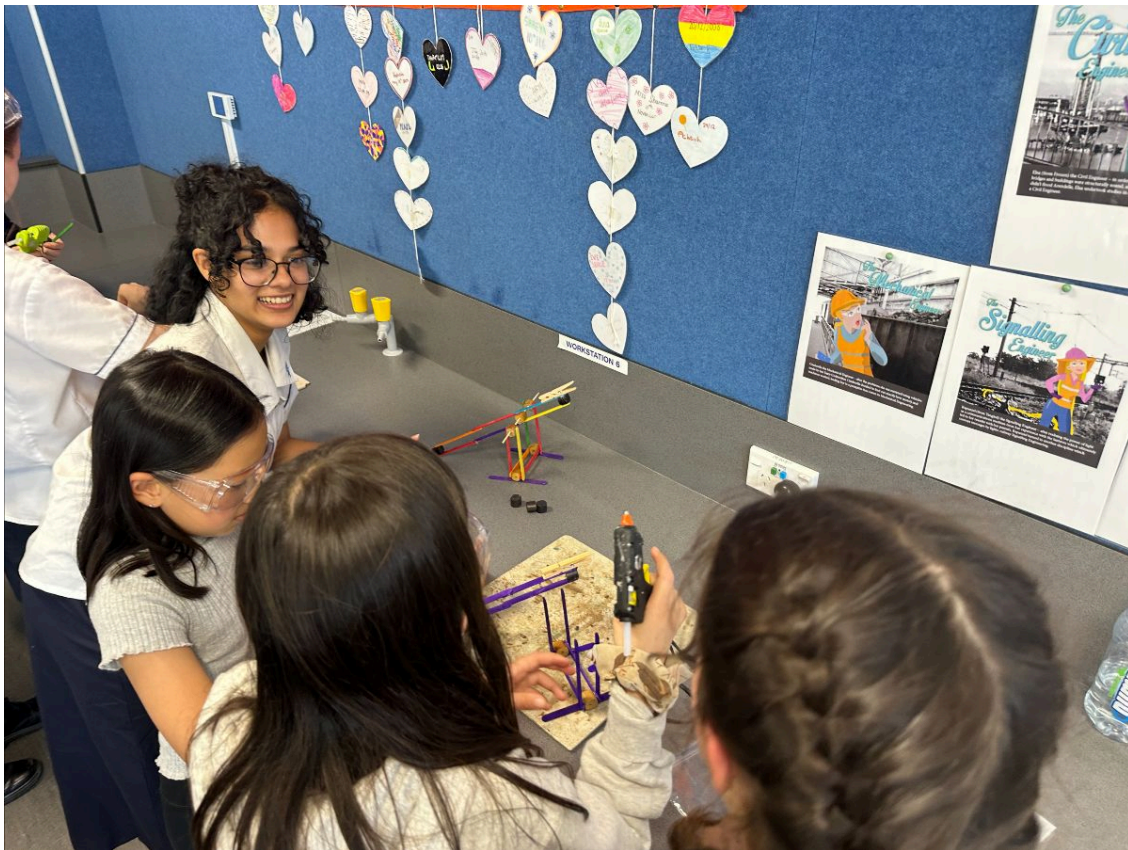


Our Year 13s got to enjoy a fantastic Leavers Day on Monday, with lots of music, fun and laughter as they enjoyed shirt-signings, a sausage sizzle and their last assembly as they said goodbye to staff and fellow students before exams.

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



Wāhine in Physics



The MAGS Wāhine in Physics (WIP) club hosted 60 female students from Edendale and Gladstone Primary Schools in the last two weeks.

The club wanted to give the girls a taste of high school physics, exploring ideas such as projectile motion and energy transformations through building catapults and launching water balloons.

The students also learned about future pathways with physics.

WIP leaders Ella Graves and Isla McLeay said, "It was very exciting for us to give the girls this opportunity. The visits were a success with help from some fantastic WIP club members, the tech team, Ms Slabbert and Mr Huang. We hope that the visits inspired the students and will continue in the future!"

Black Ferns popular visitors



Students with sporting aspirations received plenty of inspiration when three members of the Black Ferns women's rugby squad dropped in for a Q&A session at MAGS this afternoon.

Albertian Sylvia Brunt (2017-21) was joined by Ariana Bayler and Rosie Kelly to share insights on their careers with a mix of Year 9 and 10 classes.

The players talked about their sporting journeys and took questions from students in a wide-ranging discussion. Students received prizes of drink bottles, rugby shirts and tickets to tomorrow night's game when the World Cup-winning Black Ferns play England in the final match of the inaugural WXV tournament to determine who is champion at Mount Smart at 7.00pm.

The players also presented MAGS with a signed Black Ferns jersey.





Junior Speech Finals



In Term 3, all Year 10 students produced and presented speeches as one of their assessments in their English classes. Following this assessment, 11 extraordinary students were put forward as finalists for the Junior Speech Competition, which was held during our Speech Evening Showcase at the start of Term Four.

Our finalists were Louis Allison (10KMA), Connor Corby (10LEH), Isaako Fetui (10KMA), Julianna Chloe Galanida (10DUN), Alodia Ke (10ABR), Ryan Le (10AUG), Brooke Lisipeki (PNWAL 10ABR), Jessica Loxton (10ABR), Charlie MacGibbon (10GRS), Mahara Sialafau (PNABS 10COL) and Stephanie Zhang (10DUN).

English teacher Mrs Papesch said, "It is a huge achievement to be selected by your English teacher for the speech competition, and all of our finalists presented their speeches exceptionally well in front of an audience of their peers, their teachers, their whānau and our external judges, Mrs Aubrey Mason, Deputy Principal at Onehunga High School, and Dr Esther Fitzpatrick, senior lecturer in Education at the University of Auckland.

"Due to the calibre of the students' presentations, the judges had a very tough job selecting our top three speeches. First place in the competition went to Brooke Lisipeki with her speech on why you should take a gap year, second place went to Connor Corby with his speech on how Earth is flat, and third place went to Stephanie Zhang with her speech on why life was better for women 100 years ago.

The Speech Evening Showcase also saw the return of the Fred Free Reading Competition. The Fred Free was named after a former MAGS student, Fredrick Henry Free. Fred was particularly interested in elocutionary studies and was awarded the Junior Reading Aloud Prize in 1925.

Tragically, during the summer holidays of that year, he passed away. Following this, his father, W.R.H Free, gave a donation to the school and asked that the Junior Reading Aloud prize be given in his son's name to all future recipients.

It is a long-held tradition that we are very proud to have. Valerie Deligero, Bill Nguyen and Koru McDonald beautifully read aloud a piece of prose from J.R.R Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, with Koru McDonald artfully taking the prize with his captivating performance.

Junior excellence recognised



The Junior Excellence Awards for Term 3 were presented to students from Year 9 (pictured above) and Year 10 (pictured below) at assemblies last week.

Certificates are awarded to up to two students from each mentor class at the end of each term. You can see the list of students [here](#)

These awards recognise students who have demonstrated personal excellence by doing one or more of the following:

- shown huge improvement in the quality of work
- submitted outstanding work
- shown significantly improved effort
- exemplified the 'MAGS Way' values
- been a highly supportive and helpful member of their mentor class
- persevered through hardship to achieve success



Chinese Group thanked for stepping up



The organisers of the 2023 Dominion Rd Moon Festival have sent the MAGS Chinese Cultural Group a Certificate of Appreciation for their participation and performance at the festival.

Eleven students from the Chinese Cultural Group performed on September 20 after practising in their spare time and holidays.

The students were Annemarie Wen, Cindy Zhou, Lucy Le, Ella Nguyen, Amber Tokuda, Alice Yi, Claudia Wen, ZiXin Wang, Amy Yan, Emily Chu and Lexi Ma.



MAGS has your Xmas sorted

Neat Meat is again helping our Sports Department with fundraising for students in need – \$10 from every ham sold goes back to the school.

Pick-up is 11th of December, and you can order [here](#)

And MAGSRow has Christmas cakes and trees for sale, as per below.



Quality Manuka Smoked Christmas Hams

The perfect Gift for you and MAGS



**New Zealand Free Farmed Half Ham, Cooked on the Bone.
Gluten Free and Delicious.**

Each ham weighs approximately 4.25 - 4.75kg

**How it works: \$90 per ham, with \$10 of this going back to
Mount Albert Grammar School. <https://forms.gle/dSvM9vwwSyCCHN8aZ>**

Pick up: Monday 11th December 4-6pm from MAGS.

Get in quick while they last, only 80 hams!



Support MAGS Rowing this Christmas!!

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Christmas cakes from Bread & Butter

- Traditional rich, dark Christmas cake with fruit & spices (*cakes 15cm in diameter & weigh approximately 900g*)
 - Will come to you attractively gift-wrapped
 - \$35 each or \$32 when you order five or more
 - Ideal as gifts for family, friends, staff or suppliers
 - To make an order, please email your order through to christasmagsrow@gmail.com
- Cakes will be delivered early December



Real Christmas Trees

Nothing beats the smell of real Christmas trees

- Trees start at \$60
- To order your tree (or trees!), visit the Misa website <https://misachristmastrees.co.nz/> and use the code MAGS20



Sports Update

Girls claim AKSS Sevens title again



Our Senior Girls Sevens successfully defended their AKSS title last week, with the Senior Boys finishing seventh.

Last Friday and Saturday, the Auckland Secondary Schools Sevens tournament took place at Otahuhu College. This was the first time that this tournament was held over two days. Conditions on Friday for pool play were wet and windy, making it challenging for teams to play a free-flowing game. For Day Two on Saturday, conditions were drier for the knockout stages.

The Boys had a young team and were in a competitive pool that included De La Salle College, Liston College, St Kentigern College, and Massey High on Day One. They came away with one win, 22-19 against eventual semi-finalists Liston College. Saturday saw a better showing, beating St Paul's College 24-5 and Avondale College 31-7 to finish 7th overall.

For the second consecutive year, the Girls team won the competition in a tense final against fellow Sevens powerhouse Howick College, 14-7. The game was a physical encounter with both Kendra Scally-Tui and Ane Fesolai scoring long-range tries to contribute to the win.

Through pool play, the girls had four strong wins against Otahuhu College, Auckland Girls Grammar, St Mary's College and Avondale.

The semi-final against Epsom Girls Grammar was an impressive showing, winning 34-12. The Girls will now prepare for the Condor Sevens, to be held at Mount Maunganui at the start of December.

Assistant Director of Sport Mr Crossan said, "Thanks to Tutu Tairea, Danny Tusitala and Ms Wright for coaching/managing the girls team over the two days. Thanks to Mr Khan and Willie Gibbons for coaching the boys team. Also, thanks to all the parents who supported the teams over both days."

You can see a photo essay of the Senior Girls [here](#) and the Senior Boys [here](#)



Blues Development Squad call-ups

Congratulations to Noah Gregory (Year 12), DJ Vikena (Year 11) and Jason Vincent (Year 11), who have been selected for the Blues Under 17 Development squad. They will be attending development camps later this month and in January with other players from Auckland, North Harbour and Northland regions.

A Tradition of Excellence

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland
09 846 2044 www.mags.school.nz

EXCELLENCE
CONNECTION
& GROWTH

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