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October 13, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Key Dates

Into the Play-offs



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

Term 4 sees our senior students enter their final few weeks of school ahead of NCEA Examinations commencing in early November.

How students approach this time will significantly influence levels of success in the upcoming exams.

Working to a study plan is essential – and it's not too late to draw one up this weekend!

Being in the best physical and mental shape over the next few weeks must also be a priority. Social lives will need to go on hold – a challenge ... but achievable!

Eating well, sleeping well and maintaining some sort of exercise regime are great strategies for keeping us match fit for the examination room.

The time ahead will see many celebrations and ceremonies to mark the extraordinary achievements of MAGS students this year. It is right to acknowledge the success in our Arts, Sports and Service programmes. Yet we must remember that these programmes are designed to enhance success in our primary pillar – the Academic Pillar. We must make sure we leverage off all we have achieved to date this year and translate that to our ultimate goal as a school – academic achievement.

I am very encouraged with what I have seen this week and am confident we are heading for another outstanding academic year. It's play-off time in more ways than one. As always – preparation and commitment will be the key to success.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Thursday, October 19

Pasifika Prizegiving Dinner, Sorrento in the Park, 6.30pm

Monday, October 23

Labour Day holiday

Thursday, October 26

Sports Prizegiving Dinner, Alexandra Park, 5.45pm

Friday, October 27

Arts Prizegiving Dinner, Sorrento in the Park, 7.00pm

Thursday, November 2

Te Puna o Wairaka Prizegiving Dinner, Te Mahurehure Marae, 6.30pm

Sport

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster



Trials and Registrations

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



Soren Wislang remembered



On Wednesday, MAGS unveiled a plaque in memory of Mathematics and Statistics teacher Soren Wislang, who passed away early in 2022, aged 55 years.

It was a privilege to have members of Soren's family – his mother Helen, wife Diana and daughters Hannah and Kate (pictured above) – at the ceremony, which was also attended by Soren's colleagues and past students in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Headmaster Mr Drumm said, with the installation of the plaque, it was fitting that Soren

now had a permanent place at MAGS where he would forever be remembered as "a passionate, creative educator and talented musician".

He said, "It is really special to honour Soren (pictured left) and his family today. His name as a permanent fixture in our hall will mark that legacy – as will the



Soren

Wislang Cup for Year 12 Statistics accompanied by a financial award – which Diana, Hannah and Kate have kindly donated to the school – and which was presented for the first time at last year's Senior Prizegiving.

"I'd also like to thank Diana for donating a kowhai tree, which is now happily planted outside the front of our Mathematics Block – The Maurice Hall Building.

"Soren represents all that is good about a MAGS teacher."

Colleague Mr Walden paid tribute to Soren's upbeat nature, work ethic, organisational skills and dedication to his students.

He said Soren had poured huge amounts of energy into creating outstanding coursework that would be part of his legacy at MAGS.

Soren's wife Diana said she was surprised and touched by MAGS' tribute to her husband, who was a passionate and incredibly dedicated teacher who could only be pried away from his work and hours of research by taking him away on holiday. She said Soren loved the camaraderie of his fellow teachers and seeing his students excel.

In his four years at MAGS, Soren also supported the choral and orchestral programmes, and managed tennis, table tennis and football teams. He also played bass in the staff band MAGnitude, which reformed to pay tribute to him.

Mr Walden (drums), Mr Watson (guitar), Miss Hughes (vocals) and Mr Knowles (guitar and vocals) entertained guests with a medley of songs to wrap up the ceremony.



Top sportspeople honoured



At a Sports Assembly today, Sports Lions were presented and special trophies were awarded to MAGS' top sportspeople.

Sports Lions are earned by accruing points for representing the school at Premier level or competing at tournaments.

You can see the full list of Sports Lions and Trophy Winners [here](#)



The Boys U16 team won the Himalaya Trophy for 'The Rugby Team (Not First XV) that Shows the Best Spirit in Practice and Games'.

Film Night a box office smash



The annual MAGS Media Studies Film Night was held at St Lukes Event Cinemas last night.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "This is always a fantastic night and last night was one of the best yet. The range and diversity of creative ideas coupled with the expertise of our young film-makers and editors bodes well for a bright future for the media and film industry.



"While the Year 12 students produced some amazing music videos, the thought (and research) that went into some of the Year 13 documentaries was outstanding. This was punctuated by some wonderful comedy in the mockumentaries."

Ms Cesan added: "The whole school and community should see the work of these talented young film-makers."

You can see a selection of videos from Film Night on the MAGS YouTube channel [here](#)

Directors showcase talents



On Wednesday, the 2023 Directors' Showcase featured students performing an extract from a famous play directed by a Level 3 Drama student.

HoD Drama Miss Hughes said, "We were blessed with a fantastic and supportive audience of teachers, family and friends."

The three performances were from *The Play That Goes Wrong*, directed by Emma Nash, *Death of a Salesman*, directed by Eve Thompson, and *Noises Off*, directed by Zoe Burden.



Chemists' successful formula

This year MAGS had a record number of entries into the Chemistry Olympiad exam with six students participating in the exam and one student who had direct entry from last year's result.



All students given Gold, Silver or Bronze awards are offered a place in the training group. Next year in March they will sit another exam which will determine who is offered a place on a training camp of 32 students from around the country.

At the training camp four students will be selected from schools across the country to represent NZ in the international competition held in Saudi Arabia in July 2024.

MAGS has, for the first time, had a student achieve a Gold certificate – Victor Coen, pictured left – which puts him in the 90th percentile of the country's entries. Cade Kelly-Watt, Jonathon Yu, Ryan Shen, Subhash Thirunahari and Laith Ikram were awarded bronze certificates and have also been offered a place in the training programme, along with Samuel Reeves who has direct entry from his participation last year.

Student work proudly on display

Congratulations to Year 12 Photography students Aslesha Kheterpal, Lauren Kalolo Lealiifano (both pictured right with their photos), Lize Deng and June Van Griffin for having their beautiful photography exhibited at this year's The Trusts 36th Art Exhibition hosted by Waitakere Arts.

Their work was on show over the past school holidays at Corban Estate Arts Centre.



Mathematicians third in NZ

Congratulations to Anatol Coen, Jacob Miller and Ryan Shen for placing third in the team category at the NZ Senior Maths Competition, and Victor Coen for placing 4th= in NZ as an individual entry – an amazing feat for a Year 11.

MAGS also had numerous Merit awards (for a score of 12+) – well done to Lam Nguyen/Kelvin Do, Cade Kelly-Watt/Carlos Fong/Sam Carryer, Felix McElwee/Elias Beachman/Lawrence Zhao, and Harry Zhu, Jay McElwee and Matthew Radcliffe.

Mathematics teacher Mr Walden said, "In 2023, 69 schools across the country participated, with 184 teams and 203 individuals (around 700 students total) so these are tremendous achievements."

Get your Christmas ham now!

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](#)



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!

Taking on the world in Maths

Anatol Coen, Jacob Miller, Ryan Shen and Victor Coen received an Honourable Mention upon completion of judging in the International Maths Modelling Challenge.

They were competing against teams from around the world after their solution had been judged as one of the top two entries from New Zealand.

The problem they worked on for five days straight was to come up with mathematical

models to determine the best use for a specific plot of land in the vicinity of New York that factored in variables such as “geography, climate, business options, community needs and local culture”.

Rail network disruption

Students who use Western Line or Southern Line trains should be advised that Stage 3 of the Rail Network Rebuild will start at Labour Weekend and continue until June 2024.

During this time, train services will be disrupted with network closures, limited services and, at times, buses replacing trains.

You can read more about planned rail closures [here](#)

Sports Update

Goals achieved at Netball nationals



Our Netball Premiers aimed to be in the Top 8 and finished seventh at nationals during the school holidays, their best result since 2018 when they last attended nationals – and won. Director of Netball Kathy Henry said, "The team was extremely competitive, winning two out of three pool games to make Top 8 and then had a great battle against St Mary's, narrowly losing 35-38 after leading the majority of the game. Following this game, the girls played a very different style against a very tenacious, fit and fast South Island St Margaret's team, losing in the last quarter 35-39."

In their last game, the Premiers played last year's national champions Hamilton Girls High, and tied 36-36 at the end of regular time. This meant the game went into overtime – three minutes each way – with MAGS coming away with the win 43-40.



Top placings at Basketball nationals



MAGS' Premier Girls Basketball team finished fifth at the NZ Secondary Schools Nationals Tournament in Palmerston North during the school holidays.

The top 24 girls teams from the 5 zones of NZ played in Regionals tournaments to qualify to attend Nationals. Our Premiers qualified in 2nd place in the Zone 1 Regionals, which covers the top of the North Island.

At Nationals, the MAGS girls finished pool play in third place. Wins over Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt, Waimea College and St Mary's College Wellington in the first three games were followed by tough losses to Hamilton Girls and Takapuna Grammar.

Next up was a must-win preliminary game against Baradene College to make the top 8, with MAGS prevailing by three points.

In the quarter final, MAGS was beaten by the defending champions and eventual back-to-back National Champions, Westlake Girls.

With fifth place as the new goal, our MAGS girls defeated Rangiora Girls by five points in another close game to advance to a 5th/6th play-off against Napier Girls High.

Napier Girls was the more fancied team to win this game, as they were fresh from defeating girls basketball powerhouse St Peter's College, Cambridge. In the third close game of this tournament, once again our MAGS girls showed their resilience to fight back from being down to win 76-69 in the final quarter.

In addition, captain Waimanu Clarcken was named in the Tournament Team, which was well-deserved recognition.

Our Basketball Boys Premiers finished seventh at their national tournament, with Dante Matakatea named in the Tournament Team.



Cricket tour a huge success



A MAGS senior cricket team visited Sydney from October 3 till October 8, playing three games against Sydney schools.

Director of Cricket Mr Sail said, "The goal of the trip was to prepare for the second half of the 1A competition, which resumes in Term 4 while providing unique and valuable challenges to the players involved, mostly Year 11 and 12 students.

"The tour was a great success with three wins from three games played at outstanding facilities in great cricketing conditions. The team was wonderfully coached by Mr Todd."



Game 1 v Sydney Boys Grammar – SGS
185/10 (50 overs) Y Rowe 3/25,
J Sandhu 3/29. MAGS 187/6 (38 overs)
H Oliver 79, O Patel 27.

Game 2 v Newington College – MAGS
340/6 H Verma 77, O Patel 52, T Iles 53,
F Naish 28*. Newington College 76, A
Sharif 3/7.

Game 3 v Shore School – MAGS 234/8
A Suddala 53, H Oliver 55, T Iles 25*.
Shore School 126, T Iles 5/8.

A Tradition of Excellence

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

**EXCELLENCE
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