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Week 1, Term 4, October 18, 2019 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Five Headmasters and Still Counting!



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

Our first week of Term 4 has culminated in a celebration of service with the Service Lion Awards Assembly held this afternoon. Sixty nine students, in the presence of family and peers, crossed the stage to receive their Service Lion in acknowledgement of outstanding service to the MAGS community.

There was a special guest at this year's awards ceremony. Mr Brian Murphy, who joined MAGS as a Biology teacher in 1960, was presented with his own Gold Service Lion in recognition of 60 years as a member of the MAGS staff.

Brian has held a number of roles in the school and has worked with five of the seven Headmasters of MAGS.

It is difficult to see this new 'benchmark' for length of service ever being exceeded in the future of our school. What an extraordinary example of presence, loyalty and commitment.

Of all the Pillars of MAGS, Service is the one that ensures our school works. It is the glue that holds the other Pillars together.

In a large school like MAGS there are so many opportunities to serve others in our community – and those opportunities are open to everyone!

Thank you to all who serve our school community. Congratulations to our students – and our special staff member – who received their Service Lion today!

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Wednesday, October 23
Sports Dinner

Friday, October 25
Pasifika Dinner

Wednesday, October 30
Arts Dinner

Thursday, October 31
School House Dinner

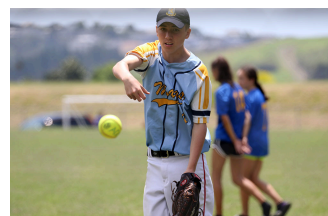
Monday, November 4
Te Puna o Wairaka Dinner



Sport

Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)



Sport trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

Brian Murphy's 60 years of service



Mr Murphy (third from left) is pictured with four of the five headmasters he has served under. From left Dale Burden, Greg Taylor, Maurice Hall and current Headmaster Patrick Drumm.

Friends, colleagues and Albertians gathered in the F.W. Gamble Hall on Wednesday evening to celebrate Brian Murphy's 60 years of service to Mount Albert Grammar School.

Mr Murphy started at MAGS as a Science and Biology teacher in 1960 and over the years he has taught Chemistry, been responsible for Junior Science, a teacher-librarian, and a school counsellor before becoming the school's Archivist in 1999 – a role he continues to this day.

During those years, he has served under five headmasters, beginning with Murray Nairn (1954-69). Four of those headmasters were present on the evening to celebrate Mr Murphy's 60 years of service: Maurice Hall (1970-1988), Greg Taylor (1988-2006), Dale Burden (2006-2015) and current Headmaster Patrick Drumm. Also in attendance were Board of Trustees Chairman Greg Moyle and MAGS Foundation Chairman Peter Thorp. Mr Murphy was presented with a Gold Lion lapel pin to recognise his dedication to the school, and unveiled a commemorative plaque that has been placed under a puriri tree planted in his honour outside the Student Centre.

Named Albertian of the Year in 2009 (his 50th year of service), Mr Murphy was the first recipient of this honour not to have attended MAGS – giving an indication of the esteem in which he is held.

Mr Drumm said that Mr Murphy had been an invaluable and enduring asset to the school having filled so many different roles with distinction. His contribution was being celebrated throughout the week, with Mr Murphy appearing at daily assemblies so students could hear about and appreciate his service. He was also a special – and apt – guest at today's

Service Lion Ceremony

For his part, Mr Murphy thanked all the guests for attending the celebration and said he was overwhelmed by all the fuss – and the attention he had received during the week.

For a full report and more photos from the evening, click [here](#)



Service Lions recognised and celebrated



The Service Lions of 2019 were awarded today to 69 well-deserving students at a special assembly in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Before proceedings got underway, Headmaster Patrick Drumm called Brian Murphy up and he received a standing ovation for his 60 years of service to MAGS.

MCs for the event were Theresa Anisi and Deputy Head Boy Oscar Graham, who introduced guest speaker Tiff McLeod (pictured left).

Ms McLeod is a Cure Kids Ambassador and became involved with the charity because her daughter Eva was born with a hole in her diaphragm that meant Eva spent her first four years of life living in Starship Hospital.

She said Cure Kids, a health research charity, gave her hope that Eva could live a full life and so she decided to give back by working for Cure Kids as well as helping Starship



Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. Ms McLeod, who was awarded a Local Hero award for her work in the community, said the greatest gift we had was being able to give, and we should all try to leave the world a better place.

Students were awarded the Lions for services to the Performing Arts, Visual Arts, the Library, Technology, Pasifika, School House, and the wider school community. They were presented by Headmaster Patrick Drumm and Ms McLeod.

As a musical interlude, pianist Kitty Mu played Chopin's *Etude Opus No.12 in C Minor*.

For more photos from the event and a full list of recipients, click [here](#)

Takunda to tread the boards at The Globe



Congratulations to Head Girl Takunda Muzondiwa, who has been chosen to be part of the Youth Shakespeare Company that will travel to London to perform at the Globe Theatre

next July.

Takunda was chosen after taking part in the National Shakespeare Schools Production in Wellington during the school holidays. She is pictured above playing the titular role in the play *Macbeth* despite reading for other roles as she did not think she could play the lead in the National Shakespeare Schools Production.

"I didn't put my hand up for Macbeth because I thought there is no way I can learn my lines in such a short space of time so I read for the Three Witches and Lady Macduff," said Takunda. "With only one week to put the production together, we performed what we had put together at Pipitea Marae and then the Legislative Chamber of Parliament – it was an intense experience doing that along with 47 other talented actors and actresses from all over the country."

Takunda said she had made friends for life during the week, and realised that acting was her true passion. The experience also formed a part of her growing appreciation of Shakespeare.

"I never really enjoyed Shakespeare that much before but after doing Spoken Word performances I've kind of connected the dots."

At the Globe next year, the 24 members of the Youth Shakespeare Company will have two weeks to prepare the nominated Shakespeare play.

"It's such an exciting opportunity; when I got the call to say I was a going to London I was in disbelief."

Takunda plans to study a Bachelor of Law with Sociology next year at a yet-to-be-determined university.

Photo courtesy of Memory of Light Photography – Brian Scurfield

Year 11 Drama worth the wait



On Tuesday, the Drama Department finally got to stage the Year 11 performance of *Wheeler's Luck* by Nigel Collins, Toby Leach and Damon Andrews.

HoD Drama Gerald Urquhart said, "It was a bit of a case of life imitating art.

"Wheeler's luck" is a made-up phrase from the fictional town the play is set in. It roughly means you've got to take the good with the bad.

"Well, we certainly had our fair share of both. Staff and students battled through illness, injury and the required postponement to produce a wonderful night out. The cast delivered an energetic performance, fuelled by a large and responsive audience. There was lots of laughter and some excellent feedback at the end.

"I am incredibly proud of the effort put in by everyone involved including the backstage and technical students. But in particular I want to thank the cast for their commitment to staging such a successful show."



– Photography by Ruby Taylor Sinclair

Sports Dinner sold out



Tickets have sold out to next Wednesday's Sports Dinner, which will feature World Champion canoe sprinter and Olympic Gold medallist Lisa Carrington as guest speaker.

However, organisers are still looking for table sponsors at \$500 per table to cover the cost of coaches' and managers' tickets. Sponsors' logos will be promoted on the dinner programme and on the table. Please contact Director of Sport Allie Wright at alliewright@mags.school.nz

David Laxon reaches German Olympiad

Congratulations to David Laxon, who has been chosen as one of only two students to represent New Zealand at the German Olympiad (Internationale Deutscholympiade) in Dresden next year.

Hugh Malcolm achieved the same feat two years ago and competed in Freiburg.

David, in Year 12, was interviewed in German at school as were others around the country in their schools, then he was flown by the Goethe Institut for a weekend to Wellington to compete with finalists from other centres.



Year 13 graduation celebrations

Save the date for the Year 13 Graduation Ceremony and Celebration, which will take place at MAGS on Tuesday, 3 December from 5pm. Tickets are \$35 per head.

More details are to come about this celebration of, and farewell to, the Class of 2019.

Other upcoming celebrations:

Sports Dinner – 23 October

Pasifika Dinner – 25 October

School House Dinner – 31 October

Arts Dinner – 30 October

Te Puna o Wairaka Dinner – 4 November

Year 8 Academic Testing and Academy Trials

Students starting Year 9 in 2020 will have their Academic Testing conducted on the mornings of Tuesday, 5 November for girls and Wednesday, 6 November for boys. Sports Academy trials, for those taking part, will be run in the afternoons.

MAGS Academic Testing

Year 8 Girls – Tuesday, 5 November – 9.00am-12.00pm (approximately).

Year 8 Boys – Wednesday, 6 November – 9.00am-12.00pm (approximately).

MAGS Year 9 Sports Academies Trials (after a brief lunch break)

Year 8 Girls – Tuesday, 5 November – 12.30pm-2.30pm.

Year 8 Boys – Wednesday, 6 November – 12.30pm-2.30pm.

From the Archives

On the National Sporting Honours Board in the F.W. Gamble Hall, the names are listed by year of award.

The first name on the list is V.C. Butler, 1928, our school's first All Black. He was also a University Blue in Cricket and Athletics. He was the first Old Boy to come back and teach here.

You can read all about the Sporting Honours Board [here](#)

And you can read more about the school's history in the [The Archives](#)



Sports update

Premier Boys Basketball third in NZ



The Premier Boys Basketball team had a dream run to end their season at the national championships, exceeding all expectations by claiming third place. The team started the tournament poorly, losing both their matches on the first day to Napier Boys' High and eventual champions, Saint Kentigern, making a top 8 placing highly unlikely. With everything on the line, a much better performance was needed. After a bruising encounter that went down to the wire, MAGS prevailed against Middleton Grange. This was followed up with wins against Nayland College and then Gisborne Boys' High to keep their playoff hopes alive. The team had to win a tough recharge match against Rotorua Boys' to make the top 8. Making up for a lacklustre display against Gisborne, MAGS played one of their best matches of the season, playing strong team defence and shooting an impressive 14 three-pointers to win.



Strong defensive efforts were again on display in the quarterfinal match against Rangitoto College. Once again, MAGS wore down strong opposition in a huge upset victory to advance to the semifinals. The rematch against Saint Kentigern went better than the first encounter, with strong defensive pressure from MAGS disrupting their offensive plans. The team played valiantly and pushed Saint Kentigern to the limit, eventually going down 54-59. MAGS rebounded the next day to decisively beat Cashmere High 71-53 to end the tournament on a positive note. There was more good news when Nate Wilson (pictured above right) was named in the tournament team.

Short Course swimming success



MAGS Academy swimmers shone at the NZ Short Course Swimming Championships which were held at the Sir Owen Glenn Aquatic Centre during the recent school holidays. The meet format is run so that the swimmers race in age group finals in the morning sessions. The Open finals at night are contested among the top 30 swimmers based on fastest times from the morning sessions regardless of age. The top 10 fastest swimmers in NZ make the A Open finals. Top 11-20 are in the B final, and top 21-30 are in the C final.



Brearna Crawford (16yrs, pictured above) starred as she showed her amazing versatility to win 17 medals: 13 Gold, one Silver, 3 Bronze, and to take four Open titles, nine 16yrs age group titles, one Open NZ Record (50m Fly), four NZ 16yrs Records, four Akl Open Records, and six Akl Age Groups Records.

Quin Walden (14yrs) won his first Short Course National gold medal in the 50m

Back in backing up his performances from the recent NZ Secondary School Championships. Quin also won three Silver Medals.

Amber George won Silver in the 50m Back at her first ever national event. Swimming Captain Vasilina Shipilova (pictured left) won her first ever NZSC medal with a Bronze in the 200IM. Hunter Dobson (14yrs) produced an outstanding swim to win a Bronze in the 200m Back.

For full results and more photos, click [here](#)

Rugby League representatives

Congratulations to MAGS Rugby League payers who earned representative honours over the school holidays.

NZ U18s vs France and Samoa

Moala Graham-Taufa

Lani Graham-Taufa

NZ U16s vs Samoa

Stanley Longi

Samoa U18s vs NZ

Jeremiah Schuster

Samoa U16s vs NZ

Reiley Satele



Lacrosse Boys win Bronze for NZ



Lacrosse players Liam Baber, William Couldrey and Sam Nash represented New Zealand as part of a squad that won a Bronze medal in the Australian Lacrosse Association's annual under-15 national tournament, held in Adelaide during the first week of the school holidays. This is just the second time NZ has fielded an U15 boys rep squad since the sport came to our shores in 1884. The NZ boys team faced off against nine representative teams from across the Australian regions.

During the seven months leading up to the tournament, the MAGS boys, including Sam Tebbutt, who was in the wider squad, trained hard alongside players from Rosmini, AGS, Mt Roskill Grammar and Waikato. Liam (#27) and Will (#19) formed part of the strong NZ attack, which collectively scored 59 goals in NZ's six games. NZ co-captain Sam (#33) formed part of a rotating mobile midfield combination that grafted tirelessly in the Adelaide heat

In pool play, NZ won three of their four matches, and had the closest of losses during sudden death overtime against the infamous Southern Crosse outfit.

Having then been beaten in a high-quality semifinal by the eventual competition winners (Western Metro), the NZ lads brought a focussed determination to their Bronze place playoff; a re-match against Southern Crosse. Another nail-biting neck-and-neck tussle saw

the Kiwis earn a 9-7 victory. Third is the highest place that any NZ men's lacrosse team has achieved in an international competition during our history of the game.

The MAGS boys did their school and country proud, and have helped to pave opportunities for newcomers to the MAGS squad.

On that note, this term sees a new Auckland schools 6-a-side boys lacrosse competition to help grow the sport. The MAGS boys have started training on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm on the bottom fields at school. All newcomers are welcome to join in (gear is available to borrow during training). For a full report and more photos, click [here](#)

– Photos courtesy of EX Photography, and there are more photos on their Facebook site

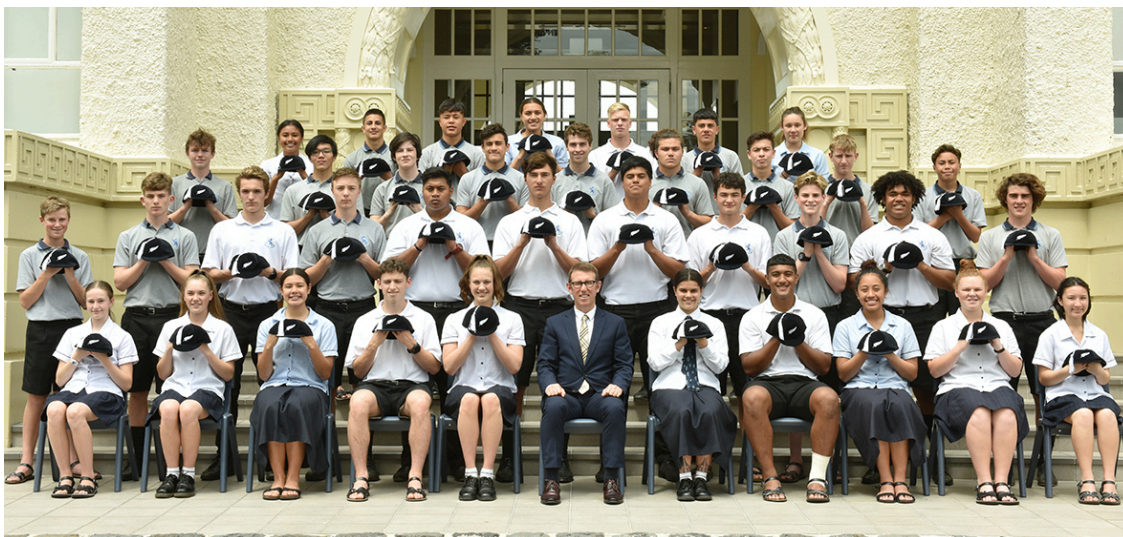


Summer Sport registrations and trials



Click [here](#) to see which sports have trials, registrations or musters taking place.

Black Caps nominations



Nominations are open for MAGS' Black Caps. To be eligible:

- You must have represented New Zealand between the 24 October, 2018 and the 23 October, 2019.
- You must have played in a game/sport
- Non-playing or paper teams do not count
- You must be a current MAGS student when you competed in the event

You can register your nomination [here](#)

Applications close 24 October 2019. Applications after 14 October will be acknowledged but names will not appear in the Sports Dinner programme.



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