

September 1, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Acting Headmaster

### Key Dates

## Courage in Context



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

Competitiveness requires courage; vulnerability requires courage; doing the right thing requires courage.

Our MAGS theme this week has been courage. Our most recent student successes at The Big Sing plus the knowledge that we have many students this week testing themselves on the courts and field provides both example and context to explore courage, and to also identify this as an important everyday quality.

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.  
Nelson Mandela

Absolutely, we should acknowledge the courage of students who step up in any competition. They know and understand that to be competitive they must have put in the 'hard yards' of rehearsal, drills, training, practise but also know and accept that they will be up against opponents who have been doing the same. Last week, through the lens of 'realistic optimism', courage was accepting the reality of that very fine line between who will win and who won't.

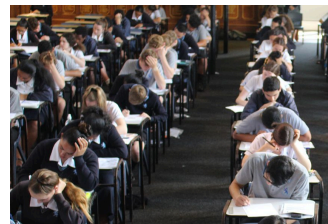
That said, the context of our message this week can also be applied closer to home.

At school being courageous can be as simple as being prepared to put your hand up when unsure of an answer, asking for help when it is needed, or accepting failure and then trying again. These examples can too often be seen as weakness when, in reality, to

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



**Monday, September 4**  
Tongan Language Week begins



**Wednesday, September 6**  
Senior Exams begin

**Thursday, September 21**  
Last day of classes for Term 3

**Friday, September 22**  
Staff Only Day  
End of Term 3

### Sport

admit uncertainty or failure, to find a solution, is to show strength.

Being socially courageous seemingly carries much higher stakes and can also be very challenging for our young people, making a simple 'No' to friends and peers a tough ask. It takes a different kind of courage to stand up and be that one responsible voice – and growing their confidence and capacity in this space remains for us, as their parents and educators, our shared work-on.

Last words must be to acknowledge those who have donned our crest and, in the spirit of Per angusta, ad augusta, stepped up for competition across this week. Thank you all for making us proud.

Enjoy your weekends.

Jo Williams  
Headmaster – Acting



**Trials and Registrations**

Click [here](#)

**Fixtures and Results**

Click [here](#)

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**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**

## Choir soars at The Big Sing Finale



*The Centennial Choir Director Mr Maskell is flanked by Head Chorister Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich, with the Tour Time Cup, and Deputy Head Chorister Henri Le Cren with the choir's Gold Award.*

Congratulations to The Centennial Choir and Director Terence Maskell for their amazing achievements this year – not only making the prestigious Big Sing Finale – and competing against the best choirs from across NZ over the weekend – but also winning a Gold Award and one of the special awards: the Tour Time Cup for Best Performance in the Art Music Category at the Finale.

The Cup was one of only four special awards presented at the Big Sing Finale, held at the Auckland Town Hall over three days beginning last Friday. On Friday night, the choir performed Fancis Pulenc's *Tout Puissant*, Morten Lauridsen's *Dirait-on*, and Edward German's *Four Jolly Sailormen*, arranged by Mr Maskell. On Saturday they performed Robert Schumann's *Die Lotosblume* and Chris



Artley's *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes Unto the Hills*. By request of the judges, they reprised their performance of *Dirait-on* for Sunday's Gala Night performance. The choir were also ably supported by accompanists Mr Gibbs, Soomin Kim and Orson Paine.

Mr Maskell said he was proud of the choir's achievements and thankful for "the mature and capable leadership" of Kairo and Henri.

He said the choir "punches well above its weight" considering it is up against private schools with dedicated choral programmes.



## Orienteering Gold at World Games



MAGS' Junior Boys Orienteering team, pictured above centre, has won gold at the the ISF U15 World School Games in Rio de Janeiro.

In the Sprint event, run in 35-degree heat, Tahi Harris raced superbly to take individual gold, with William Wood second, Victor Coen fifth, Charlie Milne eighth, Jack Trowsdale ninth and Caleb Green 12th.

The combined points earned the MAGS team the overall gold, with Italy second and Brazil third.

The team finished the games by enjoying the international relay, with Charlie gaining third place with his Italian partner.

A vibrant and colourful closing ceremony wrapped up the week's competition.

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## Success for German speakers

MAGS students shone at the recent Goethe Society Orals competition.

Year 9 Pari Lohar claimed bronze, Year 10 Isobel Knowles won gold, Year 12s Owen Frear and Alistair Clarke won Distinction and Highly Commended, while Elias Beachman was third in category.

Year 11s Markus Lienaw and Ryan Quinn won Prizes of Distinction, while Victor Coen was highly commended, and third place in this category was awarded to Jemima Flatt. James Jansen and James Bateman were second-equal overall. Both first places at this level went to our students: Karsten Price in the general section and Nora Pecher in the

'advantaged speaker' section.

Year 13s Mehak Sehgal and Loane Chauvineau were highly commended, while Lilaina Marshall (Year 12 but competing in Year 13) gained second place in the 'advantaged speaker' category.

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## Curling team's TV cameo



MAGS' Curling team was not only taking part in the NISS Tournament this week but also guest starring on TV3's AM show.

The team was enlisted to teach AM show presenter William Waiirua, pictured foreground, about the game on Wednesday morning at Paradise, Avondale

The team finished second at NISS, going down to Lynfield College yesterday in the final.

You can see some of the AM segment [here](#)

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## Central Interceptor Open Day

# Behind the Big Blue Gate Open Day

We would like to personally invite you to come behind our big blue gate and see what we have been up to. As our closest neighbour, we would love for you to come along and see all the work and equipment close up.

When:  
**Saturday –  
9 September 2023**

Time:  
**10:00am  
to 12noon**

Where:  
**7 Wairere Ave,  
Mount Albert**



Our team has completed the 38-metre-deep shaft, and launched our micro Tunnel Boring Machine (mTBM) Domenica on her tunnelling journey to our Norgrove Avenue site.

This is your opportunity to come behind the blue gates, look down the shaft to see the tunnelling operations, and chat with our team about the project.

We welcome you, your family, and friends to come along. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. Please wear closed-in footwear

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Central Interceptor

Watercare 

## Sports Update

Business end of Tournament Week



It was crunch time today for many of our teams at Winter Tournament Week. Playing in the Hawkes Bay, the Hockey Boys 1st XI fell just short – losing their NZSS Final 3-4 against Hastings Boys High. Our Hockey Girls 1st XI also lost in their NZSS Final today, going down 2-1 to Whanganui Collegiate.

The Football Girls 1st XI finished third in their NZSS competition after beating Westlake Girls High 4-0 today, while the Boys lost their 3rd/4th playoff against St Kentigern after drawing 2-2 then losing on penalties.

In their semifinal today, the Rugby Girls 1st XV lost 28-5 to Hamilton Girls High and will go into a third/fourth playoff on Sunday.

Also today, our Netball Premiers beat Waitakere College 48-36 to finish fifth at UNISS in Hamilton.

Our Basketball Junior Girls team finished third in their regional tournament earlier in the week.

At the NZSS Fencing championships in Wellington last weekend, Lize Deng won bronze in the Boys Epee, with Lawrence Zhao seventh.

Today, the Rugby U15s finished 13th in their National Invitational Tournament in Hamilton after beating St Bede's College 26-22.

Teams such as the Basketball Boys and Girls Premiers and the Rugby League 1st XIII are playing on into the weekend.

There will be a full wrap-up of Winter Tournament Week in next Friday's newsletter.

You can see fixtures, results and teams' progress [here](#)



**A Tradition of Excellence**

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland  
09 846 2044 [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

**EXCELLENCE  
CONNECTION  
& GROWTH**

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