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September 15, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Acting Headmaster

Key Dates

Challenge Equals Opportunity?



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

Our theme for this week has been 'challenge' and has been appropriately applicable to our staff and students alike as senior examinations draw to a close, and marking piles diminish.

The Term 3 examination block is always challenging as our seniors face the realities of their school experience fully modelling that of the NZQA examinations, that are now only weeks away. We prefer to think our students will view this experience as an opportunity. They have each been able to test subject skill and knowledge, together with time management and examination techniques, under real examination conditions. Feedback next week will no doubt offer advice around next steps for improvement and further study tips for the Term 3 study break.

It was also encouraging to have positive feedback from the 70-plus students who arrived, largely smiling, and appeared to enjoy our Saturday morning scholarship practice opportunity, despite many also acknowledging that they found some questions tough. At the end of the day, it remains dependent on individual attitude as to whether this was considered a challenge or an opportunity.

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori has also offered both challenge and opportunity for us all. Wrapping our mouths around unfamiliar vowel and consonant combinations is always challenging. That said, the contexts in which we have found ourselves tested have been enjoyable. Not the least of which was this morning, at our regular staff briefing, where we were beautifully led by Whaea Waimirangi

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Saturday, September 16

Senior Exams end

Thursday, September 21

Last day of classes for Term 3



Thursday, September 21

Graduate Choir, F.W. Gamble Hall, 7.30pm (see flyer below)

Friday, September 22

Staff Only Day
End of Term 3

Monday, October 9

Term 4 begins

Monday, October 23

Labour Day holiday

Paul in learning 'E Minaka Ana', a waiata new to many. While the quality of our collective voice was possibly not of the same melodious excellence as the one leading us, this opportunity provided an enjoyable and mood-lifting start to our day.

As I type, the sky is lightening behind me, and I will finish with the usual wish for us all to find the time to relax and have a great weekend with whānau and friends.

Nga mihi nui

Jo Williams
Headmaster – Acting

Sport



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



MAGS wins Clash of the Colleges



Last Friday, our ASB MAGS Farm hosted the inaugural Clash of the Colleges in beautiful conditions.

Competing against MAGS were St Cuthbert's College, Kaipara College, Onewhero Area School and Otahuhu College, in both the Junior (Year 9 & 10) and Senior (Year 11-13) competitions. Students competed in teams of four across 16 five-minute modules. These ranged from fencing skills, artificial insemination, animal health, digestive systems and ATV safety through to gumboot toss and sulky harness racing. Academic ability, practical skills and teamwork were put to the test. MAGS took out both the Junior and Senior competitions, the sulky race and the gumboot toss.



Māori Language celebrated next week at MAGS

As advised last week, due to seniors being absent with exams this week, MAGS will further celebrate Māori Language next week.

When our Seniors are back next week, the Māori Student Komiti is looking forward to sharing a range of activities to celebrate te reo with our whole school.

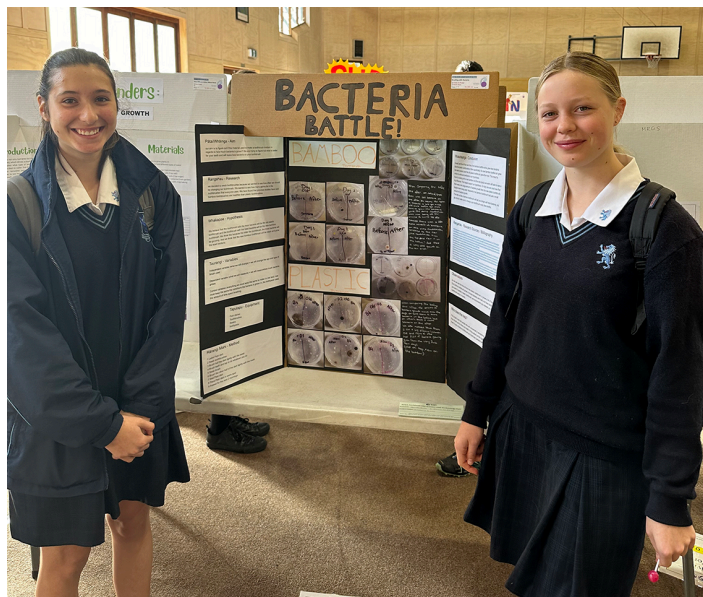
Science Fair success



Year 10 Science students who entered the annual Auckland Science Fair have been working all year, developing their investigations and collecting results

Eva Yarrow, pictured above, gained a second place prize in the Technology category for their work in using fungi to break down plastic. Eva's project, titled 'Fungi vs Plastic', was well received by the judges. On top of the second place prize, Eva also won a Learnwell Silver Sponsor award.

MAGS had two other projects gain a Highly Recommended prize. They were 'Lying Lines' by Molly Marshall, Olivia Elia and Emily Hickling, and 'Bacteria Battle' by Emilia De Pledge and Maiah Radu, pictured above right.



Family donates cricket memorabilia

Two recent visitors to the school were Jane and Stuart Weir.

Stuart is the grandson of Gordon Lindsay Weir and Jane, who is Stuart's step-mother, was a return visitor after representing the Weir family at the 2021 opening of the G.L. Weir Sports Centre, MAGS' indoor sports facility.

Stuart, pictured right with MAGS Director of Cricket Tony Sail, lives in Melbourne and came to donate to the School a number of items belonging to his grandfather, including cricket blazers, ties and photos.

Lindsay Weir (or 'Dad' as he was affectionately called) played 11 tests as part of the New Zealand cricket team between 1930 and 1937. He represented Auckland from 1928 to 1947 and after retiring he was a cricket selector for Auckland for many years. In 1956, he coached the New Zealand Colts team to Australia. One of the items gifted to the school is his blazer from that tour.

'Dad' Weir came to Mount Albert Grammar as a student in 1922 after a short time at Auckland Grammar. He played cricket for

the 1st XI from 1924 to 1926, rugby for the 1st XV from 1925 to 1926 and was a prefect in 1925.

In 1926, he was captain of the cricket and rugby teams and also Head Prefect.

He taught for some time in primary schools and in 1938 joined the staff at Mount Albert Grammar. He spent some time overseas in the army during World War II but returned in 1945 and remained on the staff until 1978.

From 1962 until 1966 he was deputy headmaster and after retiring from that position he remained at the school teaching English and French until 1978. In 1997, Lindsay was inducted into the Mount Albert Grammar School Hall of Distinction.

The school's most recent international cricket representative is Adithya Ashok, who was a student from 2016 to 2020.



Choirs at MAGS next Thursday



THE
GRADUATE
CHOIR
NEW ZEALAND
Terence Maskell Conductor

Spring

Concert

Thursday | 21 September

7:30 pm

Mount Albert Grammar School Hall

Featuring

Estelle-Maria Toleafoa (Soprano, Scholarship winner)

Whiskey & Juniper (Jazz combo - leader Ken Naidu)

Guest choirs

Paradisum Conductor: Virginia Le Cren (Epsom Girls' Grammar School)

The Centennial Choir (Mount Albert Grammar School)

Composers from the choir

Rocielli Fernando (Soprano)

Chris Artley (Baritone, accompanist)

Tickets: \$15 each



Bookings recommended
www.graduatechoirnz.org

Sports Update

Ki o rahi highlights cultural pride



In a display of athleticism, whanaungatanga, and cultural pride, MAGS competed in the Ki o rahi One Day Tournament in Tamaki Makaurau on Wednesday.

Ki o rahi is a unique and fast-paced sport, deeply rooted in Māori traditions. This is the third time MAGS has participated in this tournament.

The Senior mixed team was led by Pomare Schultz and Waimarie Tawera, and showed outstanding mahi tahi and competitiveness, winning the pool rounds. This saw them move into the quarter-final round. They were unfortunate to lose their quarter-final match by one point in a thrilling last quarter. They finished the day winning four out of six games and in seventh place.

Assistant Director of Sport Mr Crossan said, "Thanks to Boston Aituru for coaching the team and Miss Absolum for managing the team."

A Tradition of Excellence

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

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CONNECTION
& GROWTH**

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