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September 22, 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

## Judgment



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

We end our busy Term 3 in good spirits having enjoyed what is the third of three days in a row of fine weather and it has been a pleasure to see our students outside, interacting and enjoying this first real taste of Spring. The Staff v Student football match at lunchtime yesterday

achieved just the right balance of fun and competitive edge, with the Staff team able to achieve the win.

This week's theme has been 'Judgment', with assembly messaging focused on students developing their capacity for good judgment. Heading into the study break, this seems timely both with regards to making best decisions across the next two weeks, and with maintaining their academic focus for the rest of the year.

The general advice given has been neither rocket science, nor original, but has hopefully struck the right chord:

**Let it go:** *you can't go back but you can go forward and learn from mistakes*

**Ignore them:** *don't listen to negative people ... surround yourself with positive role models*

**Give it time:** *feelings of loss, hurt, anger ... given time will become easier to bear*

**Don't compare:** *be yourself and do what you can to be a little better version of you each day*

**Stay calm:** *mistakes are made, decisions are needed – solutions can be found*

**It's on you:** *much in life depends on attitude ... your mood is a choice*

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

### Monday, October 9

Term 4 begins

### 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

so pick a good one

**Smile** – a LOT – people will smile back and science proves it is good for your health

Today, heading into the study break, we wish for our young people to find their own balance between enjoying some down time, while also realising the need to take responsibility for getting themselves prepared and ready for their final academic push for the year.

For Senior students this will mean turning up with organised notes; a positive can-do attitude and a commitment to having both feet in their NCEA game; for Juniors this will mean bringing the same positive can-do attitude as they begin their preparation for final assessments and exams. Hopefully, our students will assist each other to make good judgments around both their social activities and their study preparations.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported me across this Term in my role as Acting Headmaster. MAGS is a school like no other and it has been a pleasure.

Best wishes to the whole of our wider MAGS community for a safe and enjoyable Term 3 break.

Nga mihi nui,

Jo Williams  
Headmaster – Acting

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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**

Sport



**Trials and Registrations**

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**Fixtures and Results**

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**2023 Rockquest winners**



Congratulations to Solomon Woods and William Tinnock-Jones, whose band Parkdale has won the prestigious Smokefree Rockquest 2023.

Parkdale, which also features Selwyn College's Liam Beasley, gave their winning performance last Saturday at Q Theatre and took home a prize that includes \$10,000 worth of musical equipment from the Rockshop, plus a NZ On Air recording and video grant. Solomon (guitar and vocals), William (drums) and Liam (bass) made it through regionals and won the nationwide contest ahead of 850 other bands.

HOD Music Mr Watson said, "Proving that perseverance can bring rewards, Parkdale had made it into the final based on a second chance re-submission."

Many of the biggest names in NZ music have come through Rockquest, including past winners Alien Weaponry, Jesse Sheehan and Evermore.

You can see Parkdale's winning performance on Facebook [here](#) starting at around the 1hr 30min mark.



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## Making her mark at speech nationals

Te Puna o Wairaka student Katie Watkinson gave an outstanding speech yesterday as she represented Waitematā at the Ngā Manu Kōrero nationals in Dunedin.

She was competing in the Tā Turi Kara – Junior English category after winning that section at the Waitematā regionals in June.

In her speech – *I am Unapologetically Māori* – Katie spoke about the backlash against incorporating te reo into everyday New Zealand life, colonialism, and what it is to be Māori in 2023.

MAGS staff and students from Te Puna, who were at nationals to support Katie, were part of a waiata tautoko following her speech.



## Dance Scholarship concert



On Monday, five of our Level Three Dance students presented their NCEA Dance Scholarship choreographies to an audience in PA02.



The choreographies make up a third of the scholarship portfolio. Many hours of rehearsals took place in order for students to produce a concept through original choreography and then teach and rehearse their work with dancers. Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Approximately 20 MAGS dancers performed in the works and gave up after-schools and weekends to commit to the scholarship process. We are very impressed with the outstanding effort of all students involved in the dance scholarship showing, and have high hopes that each of the five students will be successful in gaining NCEA Dance Scholarship this year."

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## Leaders recognised for Service



On Tuesday this week we were able to celebrate the hard work and commitment our students have shown to the Service Pillar this year.

Service Pillar TIC Miss Murray said, "The inaugural 'MAGS Students of Service' event highlighted the achievements we, as a school, have managed to obtain this year. We were able to look back at the many events executed by our staff and students and recognise exceptional leadership and commitment to the pillar this year.

"A few highlights from the year were our success in fundraising for Relay for Life, the hype event for the 40-hour Challenge where you could 'pie a prefect' and expanding Pink Shirt Day to allow all students to participate. It was such a great opportunity to celebrate our pillar and commend the students for their participation, I look forward to continuing this celebration in years to come."

Special recognition awards were presented to the following students:

Leilani Kaho and Hannah Moy, pictured above, for 'Outstanding Contribution to the MAGS Service Pillar'.

Nishka Arora and Ryan Antia, pictured below, for 'Continued Support to Help Lead and Grow Service Groups at MAGS'.



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## Musical Theatre Showcase



Yesterday afternoon, the MAGS Musical Theatre Group performed to a small group of invited guests in PA04. The showcase was made up of group and solo numbers, from Broadway classics such as *Follies* and *Chorus Line*, to modern musicals like *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Hamilton*. The group had been working hard since Term 1 to produce a selection of high-quality performances, and managed to wow the audience with their musical and choreographic talent.



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## Student work on display at Te Papa



Congratulations to Lucca Landon-Paniora, who was selected to exhibit in the 2023 Ringa Toi Student Exhibition at Te Papa Tongarewa – Museum of New Zealand. Lucca, who is pictured with her artwork above and her whānau below, attended the opening ceremony earlier this month.

This year's exhibition focuses on Toi Māori and Pacific Arts at Excellence level. Participants were also invited to attend workshops at Te Papa run by recognised Māori Artists and given a 'behind the scenes' tour of Te Papa.



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**Theatresports players third in finals**



MAGS took a team of four theatresports players to the Theatresports Youth Program (TYP) finals night last Friday, September 15.

The final was held at Saint Kentigern College, and MAGS competed against Saint Kentigern, Rangitoto College and Northcote College.

All four of these schools were selected out of 12 total schools who participated in the TYP festival nights in the week before the finals.

MAGS ended the night by finishing in third place, and Mr Shipton, TIC of Theatresports at MAGS, received a joint award with the TIC of Theatresports at Northcote College for 'Best Teacher in Charge'.

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## Sports Update

### Curlers wrap up season with silverware

MAGS' Curlers brought back some impressive silverware from the Auckland Secondary Schools Finals held last evening.

TIC Ms Hobbs said, "Commiserations to the nearly lads of Team Reeves (Samuel Reeves, Felix McElwee, Max Shallard and Riley Hobbs), who made the Premier grade, were one stone away from the Open semi finals, took bronze in the B final and, earlier in the year, finished runners-up in both the Auckland and North Island Boys championships. They will be off to Nationals next year.

"Congratulations to team Rolling Stones (Hugh Skinner, Oscar Vink, Jackson Candy, Cecilia Simpson and Anika Todd), who also made the Premier grade and finished third in the Auckland Mixed Grade. Their results saw them awarded the Novice Shield for the highest placed new team.

"And the biggest plaudits to Hugh, who was also awarded the coveted Spirit of Curling Trophy – voted for by the competitors and coaches – for his infectious enthusiasm and support of other teams, even at 7am on live TV!"



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Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland  
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