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September 8, 2023 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Acting Headmaster

Key Dates

Open-mindedness



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

While it was exciting for many to participate in tournament week, it has been great to get back into the academic business of school life. Our seniors have settled into their practice exam block mindful of looking at this as an opportunity to hone their exam and time management skills. This is an

important time of the year because, while some results may provide a sobering reality check for our seniors, they also know they do have enough time between now and NZQA exams to reset and improve outcomes.

Our MAGS theme this week is 'open-mindedness' and few would argue that tolerance, and the acceptance of the ideas and beliefs of others, as being anything other than positive.

That said, within the context of the breadth of ideas, beliefs, attitudes, opinions, positions – call them what you like – that bombard our young people via social media on a daily basis, naïve open-mindedness can be a dangerous thing.

When looking for an apt but cautionary message to offer, I enjoyed the clarity provided by this:

"It pays to keep an open mind, but not so open your brains fall out."
– Groucho Marx

Social media platforms, favoured by our young people, are widely populated by those seemingly deferentially referenced as 'social influencers'. And, while we can perhaps rhetorically ask 'Where's the

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Saturday, September 16

Senior Exams end

Thursday, September 21

Last day of classes for Term 3

Friday, September 22

Staff Only Day
End of Term 3

Monday, October 9

Term 4 begins

Sport

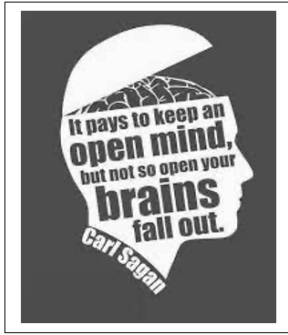


Trials and Registrations

Click [here](#)

Fixtures and Results

Click [here](#)



harm?' when the influence is limited to products or services, we know the potential for serious harm, should such influence extend to the active promotion of anti-social attitudes and/or behaviours.

While we should encourage open-mindedness within the context of our MAGS values of integrity, diversity and

empathy, we must actively teach that being open-minded does not mean being gullible. Or, simply put, "not so open that your brains fall out". Perhaps a work-on for us all.

This first week of spring also marks Tongan language week, the theme being 'E tu'uloa 'a e Lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá, meaning 'The Tongan Language will be sustainable if used at home, church and in the wider community', and MAGS students have promoted and shared their language and culture with their peers. Also noteworthy is the success of our Junior Debating team, participating in the Auckland final for the first time and being narrowly pipped for the title. This is an outstanding result and provides the promise of much to look forward to next year.

Malo 'aupito

Jo Williams
Headmaster – Acting

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

Tongan Language Week



As part of Tongan Language Week / Uike Lea Faka-Tonga, students and staff put on dance performances in the gym at lunchtime on Tuesday.

The theme for Uike Lea Faka-Tonga 2023 is 'E tu'uloa 'a e Lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá, which means 'The Tongan Language will be sustainable if used at home, church and in the wider community'.



Our top debaters recognised



Both of our debating teams, who made it into the recent Octofinals, have continued to impress.

The Senior Open team made up of Ryan Antia, Nishka Arora and Arshiya Arora made it through to the Quarterfinals, and Ryan Antia was awarded the 6th Best Speaker award at the ASD prizegiving at St Kentigern College.

Our Junior Open team of Stephanie Zhang, Eliza Rodger, Isabella Caie, Sona McCormack and Lachlan Paul progressed right through to the final, which was held here at MAGS, and came second out of 106 teams across Auckland.

TIC Debating Mr Ploeg said, "This was an extremely impressive achievement. The chief moderator commented that the debate was one of the best Junior Open debates he had ever seen. Furthermore, Stephanie Zhang and Isabella Caie were awarded 5th and 9th Best Speaker awards respectively. Their congratulations are well-deserved.

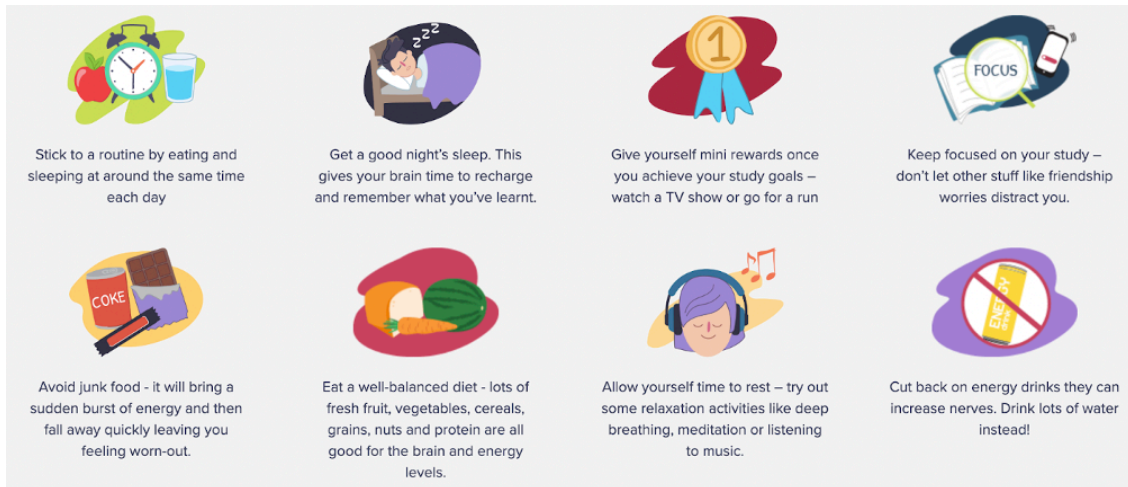
"This concludes a very successful year in debating, and highlights the quality of our students, who have conducted themselves to the highest of standards."

Māori Language Week at MAGS in Week 9 & 10

Due to seniors being absent with exams until September 18, MAGS will celebrate Māori Language next week with the rest of NZ as well as in Week 10.

When our Seniors are back in Week 10, the Māori Student Komiti is looking forward to sharing a range of activities with our whole school at that time.

How to prepare for exams



Come exam time, setting a schedule is vitally important. Students need to schedule everything from sleeping and eating, to studying and exercising.

It is one of the best ways to manage inevitable exam stress.

Students need to look after themselves when they have big demands in their life.

When it comes to productive study, sometimes less is more. It is recommended that students hit the books in 50-minute stints, broken up by 15-minute breaks. This gives the brain, and body, a rest.

Adolescents will often underestimate the amount of sleep they need. Getting enough sleep is key to successful study practices.

Research shows that physical activity also has a very positive impact on mental wellbeing. Eating well is another crucial factor to maintaining concentration and staying focussed on the task ahead. See more at SchoolTV [here](#)



For more information and tips, click on these links:

<https://mags.nz.schooltv.me/content/blog/help-your-child-cope-exam-stress>

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/teens/issues/exam-stress>

Cystic Fibrosis fundraisers



Earlier this term, Interact held a fundraiser selling chocolate fish to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) New Zealand.

CF is a disease that hits very close to home for the English Faculty at MAGS as two of the teachers have relatives with Cystic Fibrosis, including Mrs Papesch, pictured above right, whose son has CF.

Mrs Papesch said, "Through their amazing efforts, Interact raised just over \$1400 for CFNZ. We were lucky enough to have both the Co-chair of CFNZ Auckland branch, Jane Drumm, and 18-year-old Andrew, who has Cystic Fibrosis, in to present students with certificates in recognition of their efforts."

Choir concert in the hall



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

Tournament Week round-up



Many of our teams made it to the finals of their Winter Tournament Week competitions last week but none of them could clear the final hurdle to become champions.

But in Wrestling, Max Shallard, Sean Harding and Jason Vincent broke through to win gold in the Senior Boys' Under 60 kg, Under 65kg and Under 110kg sections respectively. Max was also named the Senior Boys Most Scientific Wrestler. Aiden Vincent claimed silver in the Junior Boys Under 68kg section, and Caleb Murphy finished sixth in the Junior Boys Under 80kg section

On Saturday, the Basketball Premier Boys and Girls (pictured above) both finished as runners-up at regionals, with the girls losing 61-90 to Westlake Girls High. The Boys faced Rosmini in the final, after recently beating them to become Auckland champions, but couldn't repeat those heroics, going down 51-66. Earlier in the week, our Basketball Junior Girls and Boys teams finished third and sixth respectively in their regional tournament.



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, going down 1-2 to Whanganui Collegiate.

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

At Paradise Avondale, our Curling team finished second at NISS, going down 4-11 to Lynfield College in the final.

In Weightlifting, Eli Harford-Lewis, our sole lifter, came second in the Senior Boys 102 kg-plus category at the NZSS Nationals.

In their semifinal last Friday, the Rugby Girls 1st XV lost 5-28 to Hamilton Girls High and then lost the third/fourth playoff on Sunday against Christchurch Girls High 5-15.

Playing at UNISS in Hamilton, our Netball Premiers won their first five games but then faltered before beating Waitakere College 48-36 in their last game to finish fifth.

Two good wins saw the Lacrosse Premier Girls start their NZSS competition well at Cornwall Park but they could not maintain that momentum and ended up finishing fourth.

Our Rugby League 1st XIII made it to the NZSS Plate Final but lost that to Kelston Boys High 12-32.

The Rugby U15s finished 13th in their National Invitational Tournament in Hamilton after beating St Bede's College 26-22 in their last game.

In Underwater Hockey, our Junior Open team played in the NZSS tournament at Westwave, and won their last game 6-1 against Mahurangi College to finish third.

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

Theo Bray competed in Cycling's NZSS Northern Tour in Mt Wellington, finishing the hill climb on Day One in 12th. On Day Two, in the Criterium, he was ranked into the U17 A race but was lapped and had to retire.

You can see more photos from Tournament Week [here](#)



Albertian footballers playing for Fiji

Mount Albert Grammar Football will be well-represented in tomorrow's Oceania Football U23 Olympic Qualifiers with three Albertians lining up in the Fijian team.

National team players Mohammed Nabeel, Etonia Dogalau and Rahul Naresh, pictured from left with Director of Football Peter Smith, were students at MAGS in 2019-2000, when they played for the MAGS 1st XI. Etonia was the team's top scorer and Golden Boot winner in the 2020 season.

The three players visited MAGS yesterday to complete a pool recovery session with their national squad.

Their move to school at Mount Albert Grammar was supported by Albertian Farhad Bhamji, who had identified the boys' talent playing in Fiji and recommended they look to study and play football at MAGS, following in his footsteps.

Mr Smith commented, "It was great to catch up with the three boys again whilst they were here with the national team. All three did exceptionally well for the team when they were at MAGS and it is good to see that we have played a part in their football development whilst they have now kicked on to become national team players."

The trio will play against New Zealand tomorrow in the final at North Harbour Stadium with a 7.00pm kick off. The winner qualifies directly for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics.



A Tradition of Excellence

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

EXCELLENCE
CONNECTION
& GROWTH

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