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From the Acting Headmaster

Key Dates

Support and Success

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



*"If everyone is moving forward together,
then success takes care of itself."*

– Henry Ford

Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

Everyone. Together. Success. Three simple words that, when combined, provide a framework for mutual support.

Friday, August 25 to Sunday, August 27

The Big Sing Finale, Auckland Town Hall

Monday, August 28

Winter Tournament Week begins

At this time of any Term 3, school matters start to ramp up. Our students are coming to the end of winter sport seasons, facing play-offs, with many then switching to preparation for Winter Tournament Week, and our Centennial Choir is in fine-tuning mode for The Big Sing.

Running alongside all of this, our senior students have their collective focus firmly on their NCEA practice examinations that are fast approaching – Weeks 8 and 9.

Speaking with students, I have highlighted that this is the time of the term for each of us to be empathetic to challenges we are aware each other bears, and of how we can collectively show our support for each other in different ways and different contexts.

Sideline support, audience support is both easy to recognise and easy to give. Turn up, make the appropriate noises of appreciation and encouragement, and then – win or lose – find the right words.

For our young people, recognising the need to take a deliberately supportive approach in the classroom is probably less likely. Arriving to class already holding the understanding that they and their teachers are on the same team, and so mutually support each other

Sport

Photo Essays



Auckland Final: Rugby Girls 1st XV v Auckland Girls Grammar

Click [here](#)

to get the job done, is a win-win. The formula for this is also simple – listen, contribute, clarify, co-operate. Then collaborate – work together – to achieve collective understanding and success.

Everyone. Together. Success. Three simple words that, when combined, provide a framework for mutual support.

Sincere wishes for the very best of weekends.

Jo Williams
Headmaster – Acting



APC Final: Football Girls 1st XI
v Baradene College

Click [here](#)



Knockout Cup Final: U13s v
Westlake Boys High

Click [here](#)

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



Ensembles win KBB bronze medals



Last week, three MAGS music ensembles performed and competed at the annual KBB Music Festival, each earning a bronze medal.

On Monday, August 7, the Symphony Orchestra performed during the morning session at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell.

Ensemble director Mr Bingham said, "I've been really impressed with the Symphony Orchestra's attitude and commitment this year. The Orchestra held themselves to a high level in the performance and represented the school well."

During the same day the Chamber Orchestra performed in the St Mary's Church venue. Directed by Ms Cooper, she had this to say: "They performed commendably in front of a large audience, and there were some beautiful moments of musical phrasing."

The Owairaka Jazz Ensemble performed on the Wednesday during the morning session, directed by HOD Music Mr Watson.

Of the week's performances, Mr Watson said: "All of the MAGS groups achieved some of their best performances this year. It was great to see the professionalism and respect that our music students displayed on and off the stage."

"It was also a great opportunity for the MAGS musicians to see and hear a number of other school ensembles perform."

Also as part of the festival, Year 13 Music Leader and Prefect Celestine Howard was selected to lead the Violin II section for the KBB Honours Orchestra that performed at the Gala Evening concert last Friday.

You can see more photos of the performances [here](#)



Auckland Rugby Champions



On Monday, our Ruby Girls 1st XV defeated Auckland Girls Grammar School (AGGS) in a reversal of last year's final.

After losing the final to AGGS in 2022, the girls were intent on revenge and battled it out in miserable conditions at Colin Maiden Park to win 15-14.

The foul weather didn't stop the supporters from coming out, with the crowd being filled with blue and yellow all around. MAGS led 12-7 at halftime on the back of tries from Danny-Elle Fesolai, who scored from close range in the first 10 minutes, and Gezreyal Maiu'u, who scored a 60-metre runaway try near halftime.



In the second half, after some sustained pressure, MAGS gained a penalty right in front – kicked by captain Mataele Vaea to give MAGS a 15-7 lead.

The remaining 10 minutes was a nail-biter as AGGS bounced back, managing to score another converted try to trail 14-15. MAGS was able to hold out for the last seven minutes of the game.

This is the first time the Rugby Girls 1st XV has won the Auckland title after having success in 7s and 10s in past years.

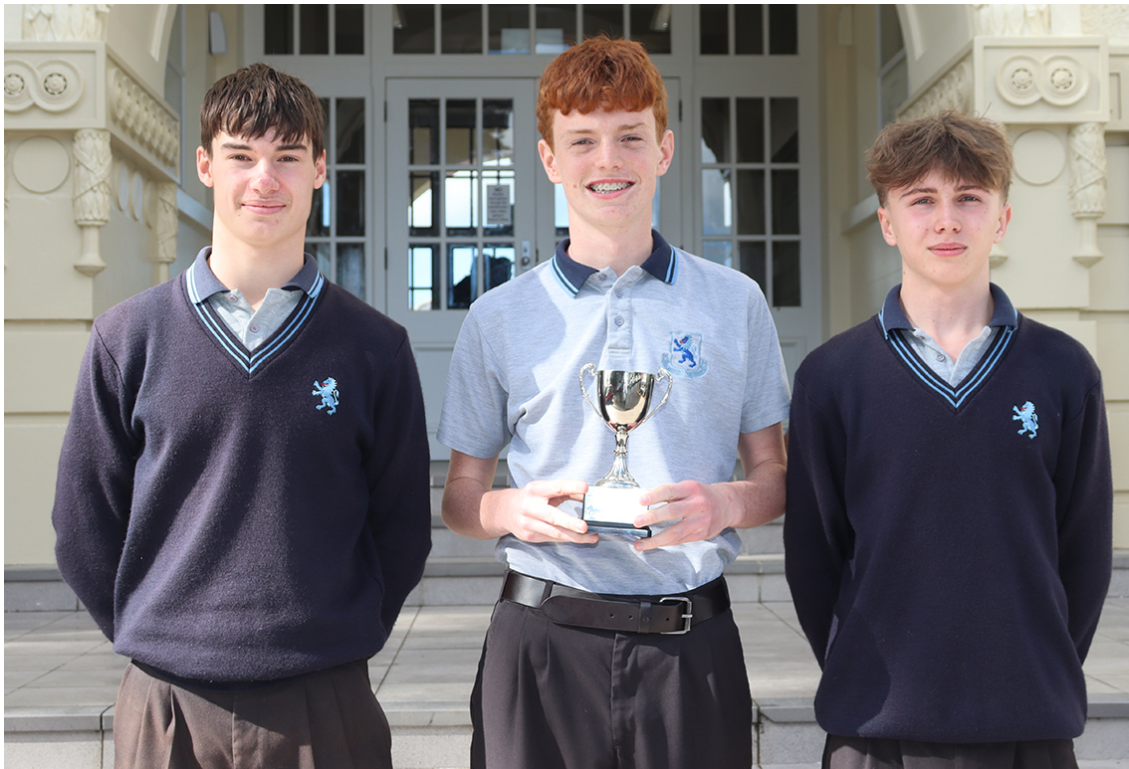
This sets up a Blues Region Top 4 National Qualifier next Monday (August 21) at MAGS at 1pm against Bay of Islands College to see who advances to the Top 4 National competition

played in Palmerston North.

Team member Zahnia Papali'i said, "Thanks to coaches Tino Ape, Tutu Tairea and Feleti Lefao for their work throughout the season. Thanks to Ms Wright for managing the team this season and Jasleen Kaur for being the team's physio."

You can see more photos from the final [here](#)

Geographers reclaim title



Luis Kerrigan, Ben Horton and Riley Anderson-Eddy reclaimed the Maatangi Whenua Year 11 Geography Trophy for MAGS.

Do you know which country is considered to be the world's happiest?

If you guessed Finland then you would not be out of place competing in the annual Maatangi Whenua Year 11 Geography Quiz, which was hosted by MAGS in the F.W. Gamble Hall on Wednesday.

Seventeen different teams were in attendance and included schools such as Botany Downs Secondary College, Auckland Grammar School and Western Springs College. The students competed over two-and-a-half hours in a rigorous competition that included eight rounds of questions.

The tasks included making geographic features from playdough, reading topographic maps, showing understanding of current geography issues, naming countries from a series of clues, and displaying general geographic knowledge.

Going into the competition, Avondale College were the holders of the trophy by winning in 2022 but MAGS had won five years straight from 2016-2021.

The competition was neck-and-neck the whole way with Auckland Grammar 'B' and MAGS 'B' challenging each other for the lead. The contest came down to the final round with Riley, Luis and Ben from MAGS 'B' holding off Auckland Grammar 'B' to take the win by 127

points to 123. Diocesan School for Girls placed 3rd on 119 points. Social Sciences Teacher Mr Kerrigan said, "Huge thanks to Mr Haines for organising, Ms Hobbs for her quiz coaching and Mr Grimsey for performing his natural role of Master of Ceremonies."

Dracula gets pulses racing



This week, Level 2 Drama put on some fantastic shows of Count Dracula by Ted Tiller.

HOD Drama Ms Hughes said, "Year 11s and 12s alike have been working solidly for the last two months to transform this dark comedy into a brilliant performance by all.

"Audience feedback has ranged from assurances that they're going to get nightmares after seeing the show to how they're always so impressed with the students' ability to learn lines and showcase such professional performance energy.

"What a way to end the senior productions for 2023!

"A special mention needs to go out to our backstage leaders and the wider Drama department for helping behind the scenes. We are so lucky to have the students we do."

You can see more photos from the productions [here](#)



Year 13s' big adventure



The 13 Outdoor Education students recently competed in a four-day Adventure Race in the greater Auckland area, the culmination of their group work over the past four years.

The race saw four teams pitted against each other in group work activities ranging from a water transfer activity at MAGS; tramping in the Waitakere Ranges, Riverhead Forest and Hunua Ranges; mountain biking at Woodhill MTB Park; and orienteering in Mahurangi Regional Park.

Each night the class stayed together at an Auckland Regional Council campsite. Congratulations to Katie Finch, Freja Wood, Harry Innes and Felix Schollum of Team Delta for winning the inaugural race.

To see more trip photos, please visit the Outdoor Education [Instagram page](#)



Senior course selection for 2024

We now require students to complete their course selection online.

We encourage parents to review this with their child(ren).

Course selection for 2024 is now open and should be completed by:

Wednesday 23rd August 2023, for current Year 11 & 12

Wednesday 30th August 2023, for current Year 10

You can view course information and options through SchoolPoint [here](#)

- Year 13 students for 2024 choose 5 courses
- Year 12 students for 2024 must choose English and any other 5 courses
- Year 11 students for 2024 must choose an English course, a Mathematics course, and any other 4 courses. It is strongly recommended that at least one of the 4 remaining courses is a Science subject.

For more information about senior course selection, click [here](#)

Historical Images



In the 2022 Centennial Year, the Prefects wore a smart new blazer with Cambridge Blue chalk stripe. It was first worn for the opening of the Centennial Walkway on February 1, 2022. The flag was raised on the new flagpole for the first time.

The same year saw the advent of the Centennial Tie, which has diagonal lines of small light blue lions on a navy-blue ground. Just one lion is larger and overlaid with the numeral 100 in yellow/gold. It was available in early February.

These images and more – collated and annotated by our Archivist, Mr Murphy – are part of Set 92, recently uploaded to the [Historical Images page](#) on our website.



Out-of-zone enrolments for 2024

The Mount Albert Grammar School Board of Trustees may approve a limited number of out-of-zone enrolments for 2024.

Applications for out-of-zone enrolments for 2024 must be received by **4.00pm, Wednesday**,

30 August, 2023. Should a ballot be required for out-of-zone enrolments, this will occur on Wednesday, 6 September, 2023.

Out-of-zone applications use the same online application procedure as in-zone students. However, out-of-zone applications do not require the completion of the in-zone Statutory Declaration Form or provision of proof of residence.

More information about enrolment [here](#)

Sports Update

Football Girls 1st XI win APC Cup



Our Football Girls 1st XI won the APC Cup 1-0 against Baradene College on Wednesday with a late goal from Piper O'Neill

Coach Ms Inwood reports, "The girls had a tough battle against last year's APC champs Baradene. We had a game plan going into the match and the girls executed it.

"We had majority possession and looked dangerous throughout the whole game. Piper O'Neill scored the match-winner with five minutes to go and the girls managed to hold Baradene off. Maia Lythe got MVP of the match."

The Junior A Girls almost made it a double in APC Finals but lost on penalties after drawing 3-3 with Baradene through extra time.

You can see photos of the Football Girls 1st XI in action in the final [here](#)

Big strides at AKSS Road Running

On Tuesday, 12 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Road Running Race at Pulman Park in Papakura.

With over 100 competitors in the Intermediate Boys section, Theo Bray (Year 11) finished 11th with a time of 12:17 for the 4 km course. This was an impressive effort as he had competed at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Duathlon on Sunday.

With the combined points 6-person competition, MAGS narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing 4th in the intermediate Boys category.

Sam Carryer (Year 13) made a good showing in a strong Senior Boys field, finishing in the top half of the field in 19th. He completed the 6 km run with a time of 20:55.

Assistant Director of Sport Carlin Crossan said, "Thanks to Isla Hills, who assisted with transport and support on the day."



Top 10 finishes at NZSS Duathlon

Two students competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Duathlon last Sunday at Ambury Regional Park in Mangere.

Agelu Afoa (Year 12) finished 9th in a competitive Senior Boys category. He was happy to complete the race after unfortunately getting a puncture at the Auckland event. The course consisted of a 5km run, 21km bike and concluded with a 2.5km run. Agelu completed the course in 1:20:12.



Theo Bray (Year 11) finished 6th in the Intermediate Boys category out of 21 competitors, continuing his impressive form in multisport events this year. The course consisted of a 3.5km run, 15km bike and finished with a 2.5km run. Theo was consistent right through the race staying in the top 10 and finishing with a time of 44:14.

Assistant Director of Sport Carlin Crossan said, "A special mention goes to Mr Martin, who came 3rd in his age category competing in the adults section of the event that took place on the day as well. "Thanks to all the family members that assisted on the day to ensure the students could compete."

Fencers dominate Boys Epee



MAGS Fencers dominated the Boys Epee at the Fencing North Individual Championships last weekend.

In the Boys Epee, AGS had four fencers in the top eight, with Jorge Lardies taking gold and Thomas Pham the silver, followed by Elijah Yarr in seventh and Nico Meyer in eighth. The day started with the Men's Foil event, not a competition that MAGS usually participates in but Affan Aadil Sharif came home with a fifth place.

In the Girls Epee, Emi Mason also picked up a fifth place.

Climbers finish on a high



Last Sunday saw the fourth and final round of the Auckland College Climbing Series – this time bouldering at Boulder Co.

Over 200 students from different schools have competed across the various grades this year, from national representative climbers to novices.

TIC Ms Hobbs said, "The MAGS squad were hoping for a good showing as they use this venue for training and it indeed turned into our strongest performance to date."

Thomas Roberts finished 24th on the day and 26th overall, while Ronin Ng finished 10th-equal in this round and 13th overall in the Intermediate Boys grade. As Year 9s, they both have another year in this grade and they are looking forward to improving on these placings next year.

For the first time, however, MAGS had not one but two climbers make the final.

Anna Swan, pictured top, placed third-equal after a tough opening wall in the Senior Girls grade. This result also lifted her to sixth overall for the whole series, an outstanding result for a Year 11 student, and she was acknowledged as the runner up for the Most Improved Climber in this grade.

Riley Hobbs, pictured above right, made his first final in the competitive Intermediate Boys grade, qualifying sixth, and improved this placing to fifth by nearly topping the second wall. This left him 11th overall for the series and his efforts saw him named Most Improved Climber for this year. He is relishing the challenge of stepping up to the Senior grade next year.



Ms Hobbs added, "Finally a huge thank-you from the squad to Mr Hemera for his coaching and support. The MAGS climbing group practise on the school wall after school on Thursdays and welcome any new students that would like to come and have a go."

Upcoming Premier Sport



Today, the Premier Girls and Boys Basketball teams are into semifinals at Trusts Stadium, with the Girls taking on EGGs at 6pm and the Boys facing St Kentigern at 7.30pm. The Football Boys 1st XI play away to Macleans College at 6pm, and can still win the league if results go their way.

On Monday, fresh off their Auckland title win, the Rugby Girls 1st XV host Bay of Islands College in a Blues Region Final at 1pm.

On Wednesday, the Hockey Boys 1st XI have a 3rd/4th playoff against Pukekohe High at 5pm at Lloyd Elsmore Park. The Netball Premiers play Howick College for 3rd/4th at the Auckland Netball Centre, with the time to be confirmed.

The Hockey Girls 1st XI beat St Cuthbert's 3-0 yesterday to book a place in the final next Thursday, with details to be confirmed.

For updated fixtures and results, click [here](#)

A Tradition of Excellence

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland
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EXCELLENCE
CONNECTION
& GROWTH

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