

THE

AUGUST 2024

# LION



MOUNT ALBERT  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**TWO GIANTS**  
**IN THE STORY OF MAGS**  
**MURRAY NAIRN AND MAURICE HALL**





## MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mount Albert Grammar School  
Alberton Avenue  
Mount Albert  
Auckland 1025

Ph 09 846 2044

[www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

The Lion is the official magazine of Mount Albert Grammar School

Editorial and advertising inquiries to editor  
Graham Hepburn  
[communications@mags.school.nz](mailto:communications@mags.school.nz)  
ph 09 846 2044, x 8236

Cover photo:  
The new Murray Nairn Building.

Photo: Martin Sykes



Designed & printed by SCG



# Contents

<b>4-5</b> From the Headmaster	<b>44-58</b> Sport
<b>6-14</b> School News	<b>59</b> MAGS Foundation
<b>15-19</b> Community Service	<b>60-62</b> From the Archives
<b>20-28</b> Academic News	<b>63</b> Key dates
<b>29-43</b> Performing Arts	



# ON THE SHOULDERS of Giants

*"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."*  
Sir Isaac Newton

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Mount Albert Grammar School

It is a delight to bring you the mid-year edition of The Lion as we celebrate another semester of outstanding achievement by our MAGS young people.

The MAGS of 2024 is an incredible place. Opportunities abound for our students across the artistic, sporting and academic landscapes. Yet a service ethos ensures we keep our feet on the ground, with students encouraged to lift up those around them as we seek collective success.

Creating such a community is not a chance event. While our students have an eye on future pathways, they also possess an intrinsic understanding of the importance of the past – and those who have shaped our school over the last 103 years.

Two giants in the story of MAGS have been recently honoured by our school. Former Headmasters Murray Nairn (1956 – 1969) and Maurice Hall (1970-1988) have been both celebrated and commemorated for their tenure at MAGS – a period where they led the school consecutively for 33 years.

The opening and dedication of the new Murray Nairn Building at the end of last term was momentous for the school. This magnificent

22-classroom facility has a library space on the ground floor. The upper levels house classes for the teaching of Social Sciences, a senior student study area along with office and administrative spaces. Murray Nairn's legacy with MAGS stretches back to his original appointment as a Mathematics Teacher in 1934. He enjoyed a period in charge of the MAGS boarding facility at School House before, like so many of his generation, being called to serve during World War II where he received his MBE (Military) for services to the RNZAF.

To have Murray's immediate family present at the opening celebration was wonderful. Further to allowing the school to name the new building after their father and grandfather, the generosity of Murray's family has extended to loaning his MBE to the school for display in our main building.

Adjoining the front of the Murray Nairn Building is our new whare wānanga – 'Te Puna Wānanga', which will accommodate the learning of Te Reo Māori as well as housing Te Puna O Wairaka – our Māori whanau group. Te Puna Wānanga is destined to become the heart of tikanga at MAGS.

The symbolism of the building is not lost on the school community. The Nairn Building is a nod to the past, recognising a leader who served generations of post-war MAGS students and engendered great respect from those who knew him. And our whare, while part of the same structure, reaches out from the front of the building recognising a school prepared to evolve alongside its changing community.



On May 3, the Nairn Building and associated Te Puna Wānanga were blessed with Matua Hare Paniora and Hohepa Renata overseeing proceedings with the support of Te Puna o Wairaka staff and students.



Local MP Melissa Lee officially opened the Murray Nairn Building and was joined by members of Murray's family, grandson David Hillier, daughter Wendy Innes and her husband John.



In 2016, Hon Nikki Kaye and Maurice Hall opened the building named after him. Maurice had been Head of Mathematics and taught in what was D Block. A new parallel building was joined to the refurbished original 1970 building by an atrium and is now the HQ of the Mathematics Faculty.

These two spaces sit together comfortably in partnership. They stand as icons to the values of tradition and change – themes that have carried great weight throughout the journey of MAGS.

The Murray Nairn Building has been brought to life by the hundreds (thousands) of students who enjoy this space each day. I think Murray Nairn would have loved seeing the young people of MAGS learning and connecting in this building which carries his name.

Shortly after the blessing of the Murray Nairn Building in April, we received the sad news of the passing of Maurice Hall, the 4th

Headmaster of MAGS.

Maurice Hall was appointed to MAGS in 1962 as Head of Mathematics and quickly gained a reputation as an expert subject teacher and leader. In 1970 he succeeded Murray Nairn as Headmaster and led the school for 19 years through what was, at times, tumultuous social change in New Zealand and in schools.

One of Maurice's tasks early in his tenure was to oversee the MAGS Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1972. So it was special then in 2022 – our centennial year as a school – to have Maurice back on stage at MAGS, addressing our senior students at our Centennial Assembly – just like he had done on the same stage 50 years before! At 93 years of age, he was so comfortable at the podium and spoke brilliantly to our students. Everyone in the F.W. Gamble Hall that morning knew we were witnessing an event, and a person unique in our school story. The respect was palpable.

Maurice Hall never lost his love of supporting MAGS sporting teams. Up until last year, he would regularly attend the 1st XV home Rugby fixtures, turning up impeccably dressed in jacket and tie, and always offering a succinct appraisal of our MAGS 1st XV's performance on the day!

Maurice's presence has been a constant at MAGS for over 60 years. And his name lives on daily in the school with our students and staff enjoying the use of the Maurice Hall Building.

Schools, like societies and nations rely on leaders who can share a vision, engender hope and create confidence for the future. It requires laying foundations upon which future generations can build their own goals and aspirations.

It has been wonderful to look back, acknowledge and thank two special people in the story of MAGS who have done just that!

Murray Nairn, Headmaster MAGS 1956 – 1969  
Maurice Hall, Headmaster MAGS 1970 – 1988

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

**Patrick Drumm**  
Headmaster

# The outstanding

# legacies of ...

## Murray Nairn



Murray Nairn escorts the Duke of Edinburgh on a 1956 visit to MAGS.

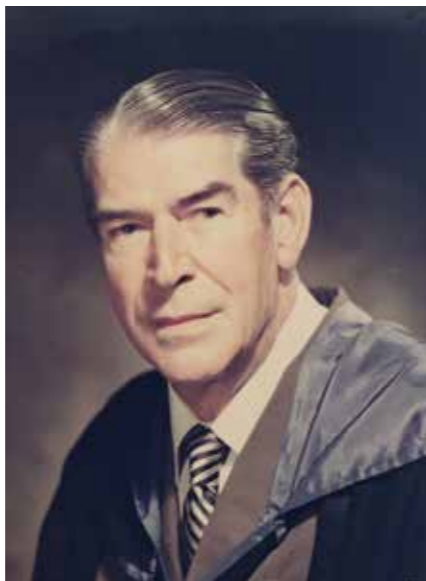
Murray Nairn, who had been a mathematics teacher and Senior Housemaster, took over as the School's third Headmaster in 1960, and retired in 1969.

He came with impressive academic and educational achievements. He was a Junior and Senior National Scholar at Auckland Grammar School and a Senior Scholar of the University of New Zealand, graduating with First Class Honours in Mathematics.

His first appointment after Training College was to MAGS in 1934 where he also served as assistant Housemaster at School House and then Senior Housemaster in 1936 and 1937 until he left to get married.

He then moved to Avondale College, first as Careers Advisor and then as Joint Head of Mathematics until becoming an Inspector of Post Primary Schools and Associate Principal of Auckland Training College. He returned to MAGS as Headmaster in 1956.

During WWII, he was an Education Officer in the R.N.Z.A.F. and became Chief Ground Instructor for the Initial Training Wing for Aircrew, and the Officer commanding the unit, for which he was awarded an M.B.E. (Military Division). He also served as Graduate's representative on the Council of Auckland University from 1951 to 1967, able therefore to keep in touch with MAGS boys attending university.



When he returned to MAGS, he was a regular figure every Saturday morning and afternoon watching sports games and was much admired for that. He was responsible for moving School House from 807 New North Rd where it stood in six acres of land, to a playing field next to the school. Also during his tenure, a new classroom block replaced dilapidated prefabs.

In their 1997 'Tradition and Change', Albertians Professor Russell Stone and Neville McMillan describe how Murray

achieved a "spectacular" transformation of the grounds and buildings, starting with the first ever coat of paint for the main building (34 years after it was built), and six new tennis courts, prompted by the Duke of Edinburgh's visit in 1956, and, by the end of his tenure, boasting the complete absence of pre-fabricated classrooms despite an increased roll.

He also navigated widespread staff shortages in the 1960s in which "his personal charisma, and the good name he jealously guarded for the school, served to persuade existing staff to remain and strengthened the school's appeal to potential recruits", all no doubt assisting in achieving the School's excellent academic ranking, measured in a 1967 Otago study by the number of University Scholarships as second only to Auckland Grammar in the whole of New Zealand.

Murray believed in the concept of the 'all-rounder', able to excel both academically and in sport and recreation and put "an extremely high estimate on the value of team games". The school also enjoyed outstanding sporting success during his tenure. His was the era of Sir Peter Snell and Sir Bryan 'BG' Williams.

In the 1960s, the Rugby First XV won the Auckland championship four times, was runner up twice and came third twice.

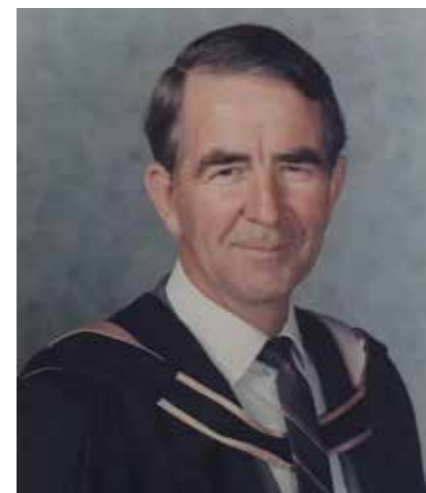
He was a traditionalist in an era of youthful radicalism who was prepared to adapt, "striking the right balance between conserving what was good from the past while innovating (cautiously) for the future". He "always tried to encourage support rather than enforce his point of view" and "was an inspiring leader, with the capacity to arouse great respect and affection among staff and boys alike", an "exceptional and well-loved Head" who "always thought himself as part of a team".

J.G. 'Butch' Brown's Golden Jubilee History of 1972 also records Murray Nairn's own reflections: "I have striven to treat every boy of the School with natural respect. One must be let down on occasion, but I have had the very considerable joy of receiving respect from most of the thousands of boys who have been at the School. This has been and shall always remain, my most abiding joy".

## Maurice Hall



Maurice Hall with Head Girl Leilani Ioelu and Head Boy Tom Butler in 2016 at the opening of the building named in his honour.



Maurice Hall came to MAGS in 1962 from Avondale College as Head of the Mathematics Department.

He had won a University Scholarship and studied at University of Auckland where he graduated MA with honours in Mathematics.

In 1969 he took up a Senior Lectureship at Massey University before becoming our fourth Headmaster in 1970.

Maurice was regarded as an outstanding Mathematics teacher and regularly lectured and advised on new developments in the teaching of Mathematics and co-authored Mathematics text books. He had also studied languages at high school and university, which gave him a sympathy for the wider

field of liberal arts.

Reflecting on his time as Headmaster, he said, "I wanted exam success in the school to reflect understanding and not be the distortion of exam success through drilling with little understanding.

"I believed that many would be better studying the humanities, which, in my opinion, develop a greater understanding of human attitudes and responses and require pupils to commit themselves to personal opinions rather than work through the objective logic of maths and science."

Students remember Maurice as a caring, friendly teacher. When he returned as Headmaster, the school, and New Zealand as a whole, was just entering a period of dramatic social change and it was Maurice's task to steer the school through this while at the same time maintaining the core values of the school. For the first time the school had to devise programs for students with little or no English. The school slowly developed into a multicultural school and was one of the first participants in the Secondary Schools' Polynesian Festival (now known as Polyfest).

Maurice fostered the Arts and the school opened its first Music suite in 1983. In addition to annual drama productions, the school produced a series of musicals starting in 1981 that fostered closer relations with Marist Sisters' College and Auckland Girls'

Grammar.

Sport continued to be important in the school, with many successes across most codes but the highlight was probably the school's victory in the inaugural secondary schools' rugby competition in 1982.

In 1976, the new Library Block was opened by Sir Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister and an old boy of the school.

Two years later the squash courts were opened, and in 1984 Sir Robert Muldoon returned to open the "new gymnasium", a full-sized facility that replaced the old wooden structure which now houses the Learning Centre. Maurice had steered the school through a number of fundraising ventures, which allowed the school to build a modern gymnasium that suited the needs of the school.

In 1972 Maurice appointed the first woman to teach on the staff since the end of World War II. From then on women were appointed in greater numbers, some attaining positions of responsibility, and all of them contributing positively to the life of the school. Maurice instituted the Parents' Association to allow parents to have a greater voice in the education of their sons.

In 1986, the Auckland Grammar Schools' Board, which had been responsible for the school since 1922, was dissolved, meaning the school had its own Board of Governors allowing even greater input from parents. Maurice was instrumental in setting up a very successful Board, which was soon to be known as the Board of Trustees.

Maurice's education philosophy can be summed up in the introduction to the 1981 Albertian: "The school strives to meet the needs of those it serves. Above all it strives to respect the individuality of all its members."

When it was time for teachers to write reports, he always reminded them that they were writing about the children whose parents loved them and so teachers should always find something positive to write.

Maurice was dedicated to the school. The 1988 Albertian contains a long valedictory. One sentence sums up his dedication. "Except for his wife and family, who gave him constant support, nobody will really know how much time Mr Hall devoted to the school."

This devotion continued and he regularly attended sports and cultural fixtures.

Above Right: HOF Technology Mr Bailey, at left, and HOD German Mr Gibbs, at right, accompanied Jude Wilson, centre left, and Samuel Reeves to the Top Scholar Awards ceremony at Parliament. Samuel and Jude, the Top Scholars nationwide in German and Technology respectively, were presented with their awards at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Minister of Education Erica Stanford.

Below Right: Our 2023 Duxes Ella Edwards and Oliver Tang were among our top achievers in Scholarship exams.



# Scholars Assembly

MAGS welcomed back many of our top academics on February 16 to celebrate their and our current students' success in last year's NCEA and Scholarship exams at the Scholars Assembly.

Those recognised included Samuel Reeves and Jude Wilson, Top Scholars in German and Technology respectively, while Jacob Miller, Lam Nguyen, Max Stiven and Oliver Tang were acknowledged for being named Outstanding Scholars (placing them among the top 70 Scholarship students in New Zealand).

The June Gray Charitable Trust Tertiary Education Scholarship was also presented – to Stella Anderson by Brian McMath.

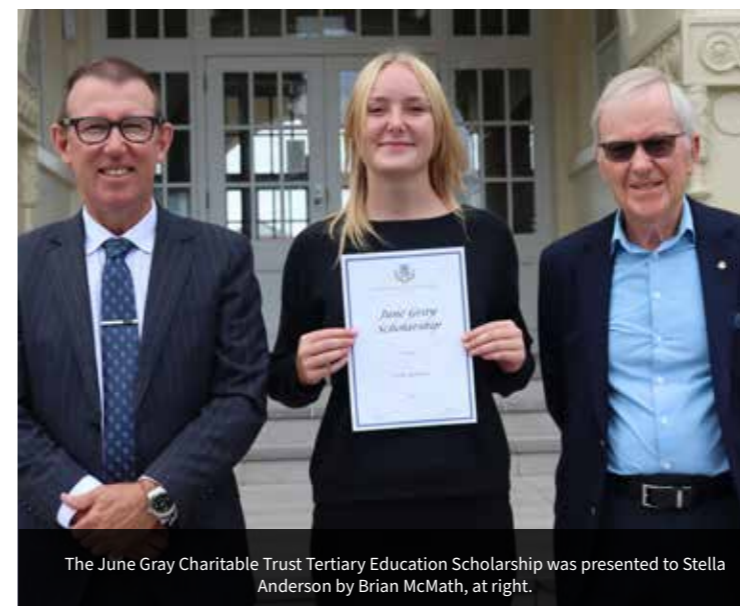
The success of our students contributed towards record results for MAGS in the 2023 Scholarship exams with an historic 127 Scholarships gained, 19 of which were Outstanding.

Overall, 14 MAGS students gained Scholarship Awards by passing three or more Scholarship subjects or gaining at least two Outstanding Scholarships. These students' names will go up on our Honours Board in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Chief among them is our 2023 Boys Dux Oliver Tang, who amassed eight Scholarships – in English, Biology (Outstanding), Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Science, Statistics, Calculus, and Religious Studies.

Lam Nguyen achieved Scholarship in six subjects – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Statistics (O), Calculus (O), and Health and Physical Education. Jacob Miller had three Outstanding results in his five Scholarships – Chemistry (O), Physics, Statistics, Calculus (O), and Geography (O). Max Stiven gained five Scholarships – in Biology (O), Chemistry, Statistics, Accounting, and Economics.

Jay McElwee gained five Scholarships – in Biology, Physics, Statistics, Calculus, and Painting. Ryan Shen gained five Scholarships – in English, Statistics, Geography, Health and Physical Education, and



The June Gray Charitable Trust Tertiary Education Scholarship was presented to Stella Anderson by Brian McMath, at right.

Religious Studies.

Our 2023 Girls Dux Ella Edwards gained four Scholarships – Biology, Statistics, History, and Religious Studies (O).

Anatol Coen achieved four Scholarships – in Chemistry, Physics (O), Statistics and Calculus.

Eric Hu gained four Scholarships – in Biology (O), Chemistry, Physics and Calculus.

Hilarie Reid earned four Scholarships – in English, Biology, Chemistry, and Statistics. Hannah Ellis-Ducobu gained three Scholarships – in Biology, Chemistry, and Statistics. Keira Mulgrew achieved three Scholarships – in Statistics, Design and Economics. Samuel Reeves earned three Scholarships in German (O), Biology, and Chemistry. Hannah Moy gained two Outstanding awards in Biology and Classical Studies.

There were 289 Scholar Lions Award winners for 2023, with 103 in Level 1, 119 in Level 2, and 67 in Level 3. There were 66 students who gained one or more Scholarship, with 20 of them in Year 12 and two in Year 11.



Local providers of support for  
Mount Albert Grammar Families  
since 2008

- One-on-one tuition
- Psychologists
- Educational Assessments
- Art Therapy
- Study Skills & Essay Writing Courses
- Family Therapy



Find out more

642 New North Road | [www.kidztherapy.co.nz](http://www.kidztherapy.co.nz) | (09)849 4232



# ANZAC SERVICE ASSEMBLY

Pūkāea and bagpipes heralded the entry into the F.W. Gamble Hall on April 11 of MAGS staff, students, guests and cadets at the start of a service to remember our 202 fallen Albertians.

As Dekon Tetini played the pūkāea (a long, wooden wind instrument), piper Andrew Wilkie escorted guests for this special Year 9 assembly, also attended by Albertians and service people.

Kingston Ballantyne performed the mihi and Chase Hartley the karakia at this year's Anzac Assembly, which also saw a performance from our Gloriana choir, singing *Hope Lingers On*.

Year 13 History students Jamie Wheeler and Tyler Brown spoke

about our fallen Albertians, and in particular Albertians John Clarke and Geoffrey Coldham. John Clarke's poem *Sigh Not* is read at the service, and Geoffrey Coldham is memorialised at MAGS with academic awards in his name still presented to this day. Both students spoke about how Anzac values of loyalty, sacrifice, integrity and resilience remained admirable and aspirational.

As at every ANZAC Service, the names of fallen Albertians were read aloud, the Ode of Remembrance was read, and a laying of wreaths was performed at our cenotaph during the *Last Post* and *Reveille*, played by student Kiri Lovatt, as the school flag was lowered and raised both inside the hall and at the cenotaph, where the names of the fallen Albertians are inscribed in stone.

The assembly was followed by a morning tea for invited guests in the W.O.H. Gibbs Room.



## MT ALBERT ANZAC SERVICE

A delegation of Mount Albert Grammar School prefects attended the ANZAC service held by the Albert-Eden Local Board on Thursday, 25 April, marking 109 years since the Gallipoli landings.

Head Prefect Toby Forster, who spoke at the service, said, "ANZAC day is an important opportunity for us to commemorate fallen soldiers, as well as thank current and former servicemen and women. Past conflicts – from Gallipoli to Afghanistan – have left a significant legacy at our school, with over 200 Albertians having served and lost their lives overseas.

"The presence of our prefects on ANZAC day continues a long tradition of preserving their memories. On behalf of our Prefect Team, I would like to thank the organisers of the event and community members for allowing us to participate in such a meaningful gathering. We are honoured to have been afforded the opportunity to pay our respects as a school while giving back to our community. Lest we forget."

Our Centennial Choir was also honoured to be a part of the remembrance at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Head Chorister Henri Le Cren said, "It was a very emotional space performing in the World War One Memorial Hall, seeing all the thousands of names surrounding us. We had lots of positive comments from Albertians, parents, students and viewers. We all came away really happy with how we sang."



**DONNA LIM  
ORTHODONTICS**

Thinking about orthodontic treatment for yourself or your child? For the ultimate patient experience, exceptional care, and stunning results, trust Donna Lim Orthodontics. Ready to transform your smile? For specialist orthodontic care, contact us today!

**09 869 8288**

[hello@donnalimorthodontics.co.nz](mailto:hello@donnalimorthodontics.co.nz)

[www.donnalimorthodontics.co.nz](http://www.donnalimorthodontics.co.nz)  
161 Stoddard Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland



# National Speech Finalist



MAGS had four students speaking at the regional Ngā Manu Kōrero ki te Waitematā competition held at Ngā Puna o Waiōrea – Western Springs College in late June.

Awanui Hope (Senior Māori), Oscar Duffy (Senior English), Bella Dunn (Junior Māori) and Katie Watkinson (Junior English) were selected to represent MAGS.

MAGS co-hosted the competition once again alongside Ngā Puna o Waiōrea, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi Marae and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Kotuku.

Katie Watkinson, pictured left, placed first in the Tā Turi Kara – Junior English section, which means she has qualified for the National PPTA Ngā Manu Kōrero competition in Week 8 of Term 3 (which MAGS is also co-hosting) at Spark Arena.

Oscar Duffy placed third overall in the Korimako – Senior English section, and he placed first for the Impromptu Speech category. Awanui placed fourth overall and Bella placed seventh overall, a great first attempt in Year 9!

HOF Māori Ms Paul, said, "We were very proud of our māngai (representatives), as well as our wider Puna student community, who attended the event to tautoko their peers. The running of the event went relatively smoothly, and we look forward to the upcoming kaupapa in Term 3."

# MOOTING

In their debut year, the school's Mooting Team has reached the Quarter Finals of the ASLM Mooting Competition.

The team consisting of Ryan Antia, Lachlan Paul, Eliza Rodger and Stephanie Zhang have won all three rounds of the general tournament. Their last win was by far the toughest moot to date as the opposition had a very easy case to defend for the admission of evidence. But despite these odds, the MAGS team, through probing questions and logical arguments, won the case.

Year 11 student Lachlan said, "It is extremely rewarding to register wins in our maiden year, in a competition dominated by schools with a long history of mooting and fielding multiple professionally coached teams."



# DEBATING

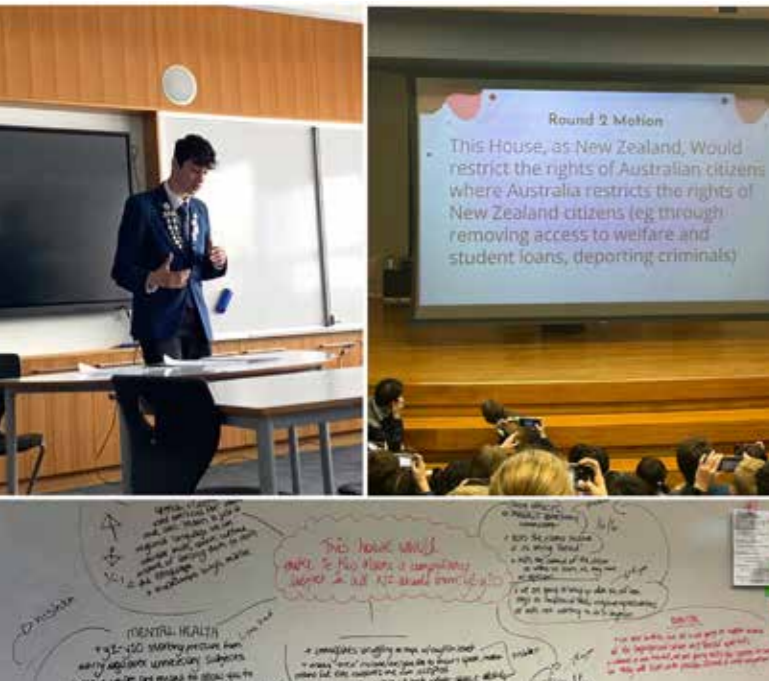
Our Premier debating team competed in the prestigious Auckland Regionals Tournament in late March, hosted by Bankside Chambers at St Cuthbert's College.

The team consisted of Year 13 students Ryan Antia and Nishka Arora and Year 11 students Stephanie Zhang and Sona McCormack.

Over the past three years, the team has notched up several wins, emerging victorious in all of their regional debates, and progressing to the quarter and semifinals each year.

The regional competition focused on challenging motions relating both to New Zealand and its position globally, for example 'This House would restrict the rights of Australian citizens in NZ (e.g. through removing access to welfare and student loans, deporting criminals).'

Debating Leaders Ryan and Nishka said, "This competition was a really great challenge and learning experience, with teams having to prepare to speak on socioeconomic issues on a broad scale with only 30 minutes as a planning period."



# Liddell Scholars

A fantastic event for all available Liddell Scholars was hosted by Chris Liddell on March 19.

Chris has a great history with MAGS, having been a student (1971-75) and Dux. He talked about how the school showed great support to himself and his brother John at the passing of his father while they were both at school. Chris, through hard work, studied as an engineer and became a leader in the business world. He kindly started donating scholarships to two graduating students in 2008, and has continued to do so until in 2022 when he increased this to four students.

The Liddell Scholarship contributes greatly towards the recipients' ongoing studies, and the alumni attending the evening said how much they appreciated that. Of those in attendance, there were doctors, engineers, a DoC Chief Ranger, a software developer,

and some still studying in the Medical, Engineering and Health Science fields. We look forward to following their careers and seeing them return to MAGS to share their journey with students.

The scholars who attended were: Dr Rohith Nagulan (2014), Adam Bateman (2019), Dr Kuldeep Rajay (2013), Ella

Edwards (2023), Dr Alexandra Chaptynova (2014), Oliver Tang (2023), Dr Aakash Rajay (2015), Eva Wadsworth (2022), Elliot Ian Paton-Simpson (2016), Kat Pett (2008), Eric Shen (2020), Dr Molly Swanson (2011) and Jonathan Wrigley (2008).

Chris also generously supports four staff each year with scholarships for study. So a special thanks and appreciation to Chris and John Liddell for all their ongoing support of excellence at MAGS.



Chris Liddell (centre rear) with scholar recipients, his siblings John, Hillary and Deborah, and MAGS Headmaster Patrick Drumm, Academic Dean Warwick Gibbs, Associate Principal Jo Williams and BoT representative Greg Moyle.

# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Six students travelled to Rosmini College to take part in this year's Model United Nations Assembly, held on May 24 and 25 and run by the Rotary Club.

Over the two days, Year 12 students Lucy Kennedy, Olive Evans and Luis Kerrigan represented Ireland, and Year 13 students Samuel Reeves, Felix McElwee and Tobin Dickison-Judd represented South Sudan.

TIC Ms Adams said, "The key purpose of the event is to support our students in the development of leadership, and fostering and maintaining diplomatic relations in the complex world that is politics to support peace and understanding amongst nations.

"An integral component of the Assembly is to set aside your own personal beliefs

and opinions and take on those that best represent your country. This is no easy feat, particularly when we have empowered young men and women who value their position to have a voice in our modern society."

She added, "The students represented our school proudly, addressing an audience of over 300 people. As well as having to speak on their selected issues, the students had to field questions from other delegations in order to promote or defend their position. Notably, one of our remits was to speak to all member states respecting territorial sovereignty. With the current conflicts occurring overseas, we see and feel the need for these important conversations.

"Students were also lucky enough to hear from former politician Chris Carter, who previously held a leadership position with the United Nations Development Programme, leading the strengthening of local governance in all 34 Afghan provinces."



# BOARDING



Centennial House and School House each had a 'Tie Dinner' in early March to formally welcome the new students.

Newcomers are presented with their house tie by their prefects. House ties are worn as part of their formal uniform.

School House also presented three boys with their Excellence tie. These ties are for boys who achieve at an excellence level in one of MAGS' Four Pillars.

There was also a big thank-you to Mara Matenga, pictured with the boys, who is one of School House's kitchen staff and retired last year after 30 years of service.



# SPIRIT WEEK



Thanks to our wonderful Prefects for a fantastic Spirit Week in late June. This student-led initiative aims to build pride in MAGS and its values, and it is hoped that it will become an annual fixture. During the week, Prefects organised a Teachers v Students football game that finished in a 2-2 draw, delivered appreciation cards, and hired themselves out to students and staff, raising \$1053 towards the Lion Fund. There was also music in the quads, a 'Merch Day', when students could wear MAGS-branded apparel, and a jump jam session in the F.W. Gamble Hall at lunchtime.



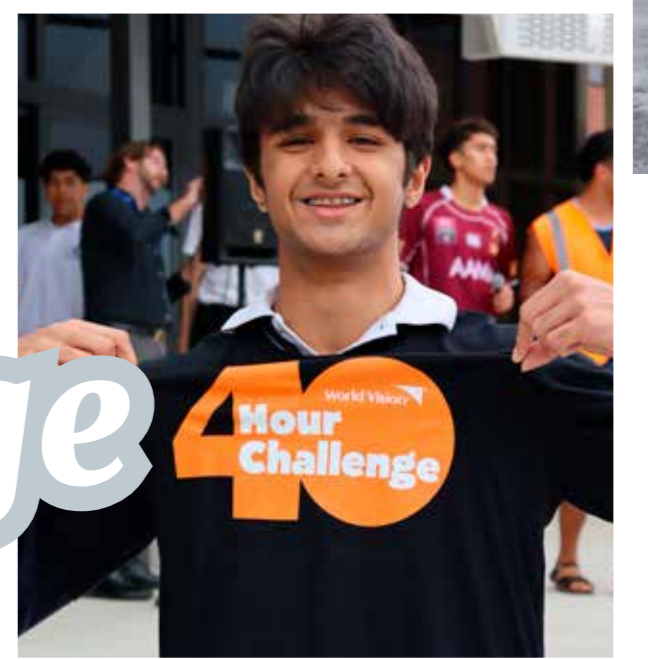
From left to right: Victor Coen, Bui Nguyen, Felix McElwee and Janice Shi.

## Chess

The MAGS Chess team took 10 players to the Chess-power Cluster tournament held at Mount Roskill Grammar School in June. The MAGS team was placed first with four players in the top 10. Bui Nguyen placed second, Janice Shi placed third, Victor Coen placed fifth and Felix McElwee placed seventh. The score from the top four players from each team contributed to the team score. Janice Shi was also the top girl at the tournament. Bui Nguyen, Janice Shi and Victor Coen also qualified for the National Championship trophy event to be held at the end of the year.



# 40 HOUR Challenge



After the success of last year's 40 Hour Challenge Hype Event, Interact held another on June 7 at lunchtime to raise awareness of, and funds for, the challenge.

Students made donations to throw a pie in the face of other students or staff, or to chuck a bucket of water over the brave volunteers.

This year the challenge ran from Friday, June 21 to Sunday, June 23. Participants could choose any activity or challenge they would like to complete during this time and need to have friends or family sponsor them.

Interact had already reached its \$5000 fundraising goal for World Vision before the challenge started, and in the end raised \$7089.41, including \$1467.91 from the hype event.

For this challenge, World Vision has partnered with communities who are working to fight climate change. This is a global movement to restore forests in countries like Timor-Leste, who have lost 90% of their original forests.





# Relay



# for Life



On April 6, a team of about 230 students and 20 teachers led by Miss David and Ms Kajanova took part in the Relay for Life Central Auckland event at Millennium Stadium.

This event raises funds for the Cancer Society, and MAGS has been part of this initiative for many years now.

The event was a great success with 73 students running a full marathon or more, and an additional 99 students completing a half marathon, keeping the team baton on the track the whole time.

The day was also filled with fun activities such as tug of war and a talent quest, but also more serious moments, which included the Remembrance event when people who passed away due to cancer were remembered.

Miss David said, "So far our team has raised more than \$68,000 and finished second in Central Auckland on the day of the event. One of our students, Paige Barnes-Kilgour also took the golden award of the top fundraising individual on the day after raising more than \$2300.



## FUNDRAISERS RECOGNISED

In recognition of their superb fundraising and organisational efforts for this year's Relay for Life, Paige Barnes-Kilgour (Year 12) and Cade Kelly-Watt (Year 13), pictured right, were invited to the Auckland Cancer Society, to witness the impact of their fundraising on hundreds of New Zealand families every year.

As part of this trip, they toured Domain Lodge, which provides much needed support to cancer patients and their families while they receive treatment at Auckland Hospital.

Paige and Cade also visited the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, at the University of Auckland. Here, they had an opportunity to speak to scientists at the forefront of cancer research and therapeutic discovery.

They were much commended by Cancer Society staff for their engagement and astute questions.

The Auckland Cancer Society extended their heartfelt thanks to the entire MAGS Relay for Life team, as well as teachers in charge, Ms David and Ms Kajanova.



# BLOOD DONOR DAY

The annual Mount Albert Grammar School Blood Donor Day took place on June 20.

Nurse Claire Bown said, "It was great to have the NZ Blood Service here at MAGS helping our students to be part of the incredible work that they do."

"We had an incredibly successful blood drive this year, with a total of 88 units of blood collected. This is an amazing number of donations and is the highest we have collected in our time of doing the Blood Donor Drive here at MAGS – an outstanding achievement."

She added, "To put this number into perspective, these 88 units of



blood will go on to help improve 264 fellow Kiwis' lives around the country. From one blood donation (470ml) this will be split into red cells, platelets, and plasma; these are the three lives you are saving with each donation."

The NZ Blood service have again commended our students and staff on their generosity in donating, and the impeccable behaviour observed on the day. They passed on that our students are always a pleasure to work with.

Mrs Brown said, "The tireless work of members from the Health Committee, some of whom are pictured left, with spreading the word, recruitment of donors leading up to the day as well as their help on the day itself contributed immensely to the drive's success – thank you for all your continued hard work."

"To everyone that was able to donate, thank you. You have made a lifesaving contribution."



## PINK SHIRT Day

Our Health Committee members were out in force on the morning of May 17, greeting students as they arrived and handing out stickers as they spread the word about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusiveness.

Many MAGS staff also supported that message by wearing pink for the day.

The Health Committee also held a bake sale at lunchtime with the goods quickly disappearing.

Pink Shirt Day is about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of gender identity, sexual



orientation, age, ability, religion or cultural background. Pink Shirt Day is funded by donations that help the Mental Health Foundation to reduce bullying through raising awareness about bullying prevention, funding education workshops and supplying thousands of free resources that promote inclusive workplaces, schools and communities.

## SPCA BAKE SALE

The Interact students held a bake sale on May 16 for SPCA Treat Week.

Some Interact members participated in two cupcake decorating sessions with Food and Hospitality teacher Ms Stunzner, learning how to make fondant cupcake toppers and piping with buttercream icing in the weeks leading up to the fundraiser, and also decorated cupcakes that were sold in the bake sale.

Interact raised around \$1000 for the SPCA.



## SHINE FUNDRAISER

Interact kicked off 2024 by fundraising for SHINE, a charity that the club passionately supports each year.

SHINE, which stands for Safer Homes in New Zealand Everyday, provides aid to victims of domestic violence and supports those who perpetuate it to lead a life without abuse.

Interactors promoted the fundraiser in form classes and assemblies, collected donations during mentor time, sold DIY key chains and held a bake sale in CS Quad. Interact TIC Miss Barlow said, "We had a massive amount of baking and sold out most of it very early on. Overall, Interact raised \$1409.25. Thank you to everyone for your support of this important kaupapa!"



# Agriculture AND HORTICULTURE

Four teams of MAGS students headed north for the FMG Junior Young Farmer competition in late April.

A huge effort and lots of smiles by all involved, but a massive congratulations to Hanna Smith and Sophie Chandler, pictured right, for taking out first place and securing a spot at the Nationals that were held in July in Hamilton.



Winners of the 2024 Auckland Clash of the Colleges, with Mt Albert MP Helen White, left, are Abby Cook, Hanna Smith, Sophie Chandler and Emily Lyon. At right is Tangaroa Walker.



Clash of the Colleges, hosted by Agri Futures in collaboration with MAGS and the New Zealand Rural Games Trust, witnessed an impressive display of talent and teamwork among students from various schools.

The event, on the ASB MAGS Farm on May 3, showcased skill, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Agri Futures general manager Daniel O'Regan said 140 agriculture and horticulture students from MAGS, St Cuthberts, Onewhero Area School and Morrisonville College took part.

"Clash of the Colleges aims to foster enthusiasm and passion for the sectors that make up the food and fibre industry among the next generation, providing students with invaluable hands-on experience and networking opportunities," O'Regan said.

MAGS Team 58 (Emily Lyon, Sophie Chandler, Hanna Smith, Abby Cook) took out the competition and our Juniors won their division too.

In the gumbot throw, Dre Palavi won the junior event with a throw of 16m.

# Commerce

Three MAGS students – Noah Curtis, Rimu Frandi and Keon Leota – were among 45 rangatahi chosen from schools all over NZ to participate in the Young Navigators Challenge.

This event was a Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) initiative designed to 'empower young indigenous leaders of Aotearoa to celebrate and harness their cultural heritage as they grow into the future decision-makers of New Zealand'.

During the three-day event, under the guidance of business mentors, our students embarked on a fast-paced entrepreneurial journey of leadership, connection and collaboration to find innovative solutions to real world business challenges, like building a resilient food system for our whānau. They were divided into groups of six to tackle food insecurity using the power of technology.

On Day One participants met up and took part in some workshops at Deloitte. On Day Two they were put into teams and given the problem, and then had one day to come up with a solution and make business plans and pitches. On Day Three, they presented their solutions to a judging panel.

Rimu Frandi's group was judged the winners of the challenge, and she said, "Young Navigators was an amazing opportunity to learn more about leadership and connections within a business. During this three-day experience, I developed many strong skills for my future, with my business group winning the challenge and getting acceptance to EIA (Entrepreneur's in Action) in July."



The forecast rain held off on the evening of June 13 as hundreds of visitors enjoyed food, music and visual art displays as part of the ever-popular Board Show and Business Market Evening.

There was a wide variety of food, drink and other handmade products for sale across 36 stalls set up by Year 11 Business students in and around the Greg Taylor Building and the new Nairn Building.



# Health and PE

Three Year 12 students – Izzy Angove, Georgia Derham and Hargun Aujla – chose as part of their Level 2 Health assessment to focus on men's mental health.

Their goal has been to address stigma around men talking about mental health. They decided to ask Zane Munro, Izzy's uncle, to come in and speak to Year 12 and 13 boys on this topic in May.

Zane founded and runs For All the Brothers, a group dedicated to supporting men's mental health. His messaging reaches over 40,000 followers on Instagram and they run weekly meetings in central Auckland.

Zane has been nominated for KiwiBank New Zealander of the Year and has won the Local Hero award in West Auckland. He has a meeting room named after him in the Kiwibank branch in New Lynn. Zane regularly speaks at the Arepa Brothers Brain Chat events.

Zane shared his story with our boys about getting help for his mental health, including talking about his journey with loneliness, depression, and feeling isolated and not knowing how to ask for help.

He talked about setting up For All the Brothers and how he wants our young men to grow up knowing it's okay to go through these things and to reach out to each other and find someone to talk to.

On the same day, former Silver Fern Sulu Fitzpatrick spoke to the Year 12 and 13 Girls about mental health and resilience.

Her netball career is highlighted by significant achievements, winning the ANZ Premiership with the Northern Mystics in 2021 and 2023, and being a key player for the Central Pulse during their championship seasons in 2018 and 2019.

But behind those achievements she was struggling with her self-worth and turned to food and alcohol to help her cope.

She spoke about her struggles growing up, being raised by other family members and never feeling like she was the same. She always worried about what others thought about her.

She reiterated that just because someone's life looks good on the outside it doesn't mean that's how they feel on the inside.

Sulu fell pregnant with twins at 21 and had to balance that on top of her netball



Georgia Derham, Izzy Angove and Hargun Aujla with Zane Munro.



Former Silver Fern Sulu Fitzpatrick speaks to Year 12 and 13 Girls.

career. Her main message was about finding out who you really are and how, once she did that, not only did she begin to play better netball but she was also a better wife, mother and friend.

The Health Expo in May drew hundreds of students into the F.W. Gamble Hall to learn about a range of issues at stalls set up by Year 12 Health students.

The expo was run across lunchtimes with topics covered including mental health, good nutrition, creating positive relationships, dealing with sexuality, body image or depression; and awareness of the

effects of vaping, drugs and alcohol.

The Year 12s are working towards an achievement standard, which is a health promotion assignment.

Students have had to identify a health issue in the MAGS community, research the topic, develop resources, present their expo and then evaluate the effectiveness of it. This is giving the students first-hand experience of how health promotion works.

Year 13 Physical Education students completed the annual MAGS Aquathon in late June.

They swam 400m in the Mount Albert Pool,

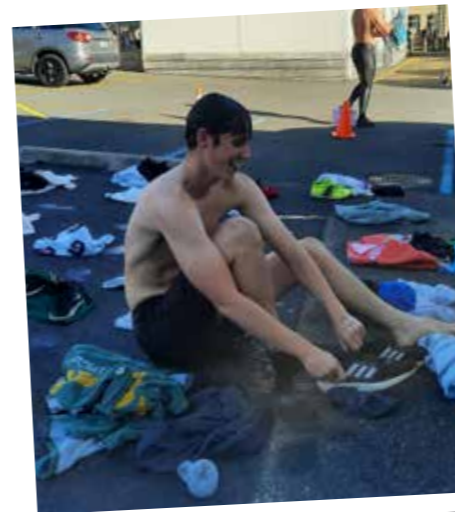


and then ran 3.2km around Mount Albert.

It has been a tradition at MAGS for the past 15 years. They spend the term training for the event both in and outside of school time.

We had Commonwealth Games gold medallist Andrew Jeffcoat run swimming technique sessions during class time to help students prepare. His wealth of knowledge and encouragement really got the kids across the line.

HOF Health and Physical Education Mrs Wilson said, "A successful event with a new course record by Alessio Aimar, completing it in 17:10s, and a great effort by all Physical Education students."



# LANGUAGES

Our HOD German, Mr Gibbs, has been contacted by two former students who report that they have been awarded internships at the German Parliament, the Bundestag.

Isobel Welsford-Ackroyd (2013-2017) and Hugh Malcolm (2014-2018), pictured right, who were both top German scholars in their time at MAGS, moved to Berlin after being accepted for the International Parliamentary Scholarship program, which is run in collaboration with Berlin's three major universities.

Isobel and Hugh will gain first-hand knowledge of Germany's parliamentary system and political decision-making process during a three-month work placement with a Member of the German Parliament.

After several weeks' practice, with the help of our Chinese language assistant Yiyan Zhao and Ms Liu, our students Seia Boulton (9 PEH), Prisha Dhobale (10 PLG) and Samuel Coats (13CNL) participated in the ICBC Cup Auckland Regional Speech Competition on May 25.

Ms Liu said, "Seia, Prisha and Sam were very brave and confident, they delivered their speech in Chinese and then performed (sang/danced) as required."

On June 22, the group were invited to the ICBC Cup Prize Giving Ceremony. The students were awarded the following prizes:

**Seia Boulton** – Second Prize, Secondary Junior Category

**Prisha Dhobale** – Third Prize, Secondary Junior Category

**Samuel Coats** – Merit Prize, Secondary Senior Category



Samuel Coats speaks at the ICBC Cup.



Ms Zhao and Ms Liu pictured with Prisha Dhobale and Seia Boulton

# MATHEMATICS



Mathematics teacher and YouTuber Subash Chandar K (aka infinityplusone) was a huge hit with students when he visited MAGS on June 19.

As well as addressing a Year 12 Assembly, Subash worked with Mathematics classes during the day and took questions from students.

He spoke about his educational journey and the resilience it takes to succeed as well as his love of learning and meeting

challenges.

There were long queues for his signature and/or a selfie after he spoke to students.

Subash, a South Auckland secondary school teacher, has won awards for his inspiring work as a mathematics and statistics teacher, and has built up a huge following for his YouTube channel across New Zealand, with many MAGS students among those who turn to his videos for help.

# OUTDOOR Education



The Year 13 Outdoor Education programme has started the year with a focus on 'Independence'!

School-based discussions led into an Independence Surf Camp at Piha Beach.

When not developing their surfing skills and knowledge, the students had to camp and cook independently.

A highlight of the camp was a Mātauranga Māori workshop with Te Kaiārahi, with students setting life goals and practising meditation.

As a culmination of the development of group work in Outdoor Education over their past four years, the 13 Outdoor Education students competed in a three-day Adventure Race at the end of June in the greater Auckland area.

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, climbing at Vertical Adventures; 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 Bella Boersen, Noah Curtis, Jack Kerr, Frankie Pengelly and Yathushan Sivanandan of Team Charlie for winning the race.



# PASIFIKA Initiatives



Our 2024 Pasifika Prefects show off the MAGS fagitaga, which is now available in the Lions' Den uniform shop, and can be worn on special occasions.

MAGS celebrated Samoa Language Week at the end of May with events across the week, including fundraising lunch stalls in the Albertian Quad, a multi-sports event in the Lower Gym and the Samoan Group performing in the gym.

The theme for Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa - Samoa Language Week this year is service: 'Tautua i le alofa, manuia le lumana'i' - 'Serve in love for a blessed future'.

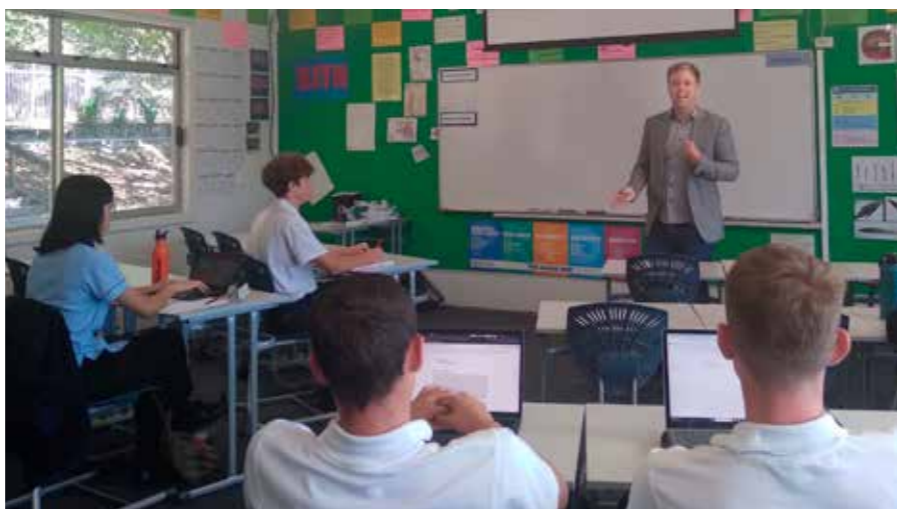


## SOCIAL SCIENCE

On April 3, Shane Henderson, the Auckland Councillor for Waitakere, came in to speak to a group of Year 13 Geography students.

Shane is the Chair of the Auckland Stadium proposal group, and shared his experiences for students examining the stadium debate as an example of a contemporary geographic issue.

Geography teacher Mr Hobbs said, "Shane was very engaging as he explained the role Auckland Council has in gathering different proposals for stadiums in Auckland and how they aim to balance the needs of a wide range of interest groups such as local



residents, environmental groups, businesses, mana whenua and ratepayers.

"He gave students food for thought when comparing how a new stadium would open avenues for more global-scale events and business investment versus the high costs involved.

"He also discussed various career opportunities in the public sector for students with an interest in town planning, urban development, social decision making and politics - and how the need for these roles will increase in the future as Tāmaki Makaurau's population grows."



The forecast rain held off on the evening of June 13 as hundreds of visitors enjoyed food, music and visual art displays as part of the ever-popular Board Show and Business Market Evening.

Inside the Greg Taylor Building and the new Murray Nairn Building, our Visual Arts students got to show off the work they have been doing in design, photography, painting and digital media.

The Magnaphonics jazz band entertained guests as they perused the artworks.



Congratulations to Finlay Robilliard (Year 12, pictured right), who has won MAGS' Character Design Competition with his amazing entry.

With over 40 entries, from all years across the school, the standard was extremely high.

Design leaders Oli Neary and Milo Henshaw judged the competition and were really impressed with Finlay's illustration, saying, "It makes you want to know more about the character; what is their story?"

Finlay's entry showed a high level of digital artistic skill, clear scene and atmosphere building together with intricate details in his original style. Entries were judged on originality, creativity, skill and narrative.

Five runners-up were also chosen: Gemma Wong (Year 9), Fleur Marsh (Year 11), Markus Leinaw (Year 12), Noah



Abbott (Year 12) and, Mrs Gauntlett's favourite, 'The Vampire Flight Attendant' by Year 9 Rudy Keane.

# VISUAL art

MAGS Wearable Art Co-Curricular Group competed in the Toi Wearable Art competition, part of the National Show Quest Competition for 2024.

They came away with an award for 'Creative Storytelling' for the garment 'Seraphim' that was Designed by Year 12 Phoebe Newcombe and Year 10 Leonna Banzuela – together with our creative team: Oli Neary, Maya Woolford, Sona McCormack, Kithi Bandara, Anushka Shukla, Bevon Argo, Elena Shmauk, Allie Bygrave and others, who pitched in throughout.

The group, led by Mrs Gauntlett and Ms Cooper, has been a fun and creative space for students of all years to develop sewing and sculptural skills within the context of wearable art.

Modelled by Phoebe Newcombe, 'Seraphim' competed against 32 other garments at the Aotea Centre in June.

Made from mostly donated and recycled materials, the garment is described by Phoebe: "Seraphims are heavenly beings, an uncanny twist on a typical angel, with sprawling wings and countless all-seeing eyes. It exudes Lovecraftian grace, something beyond the limits of our comprehension. Its intentions, whether they be good or evil, are unknown. Our garment's wings are made from hundreds of recycled paper feathers stuck onto recycled cardboard bases, the bodice made from recycled cardboard layered with repurposed fabric and faux feathers. The skirt is also made from repurposed fabric."



In Term 2, our Senior Photography Leaders organised a school-wide Photography competition that ran for all of the term.

This year's theme was "In Motion" – a challenge to capture transient moments that convey a sense of movement and dynamism.

TIC Photography Ms Smith said, "We had lots of fantastic entries across the senior and junior categories. We were impressed with the talent shown in the variety of submissions and our leaders found the judging tough. A huge congratulations to our winners below."

#### Senior category:

**Rose Leader** 13FLE – Anguish, shown right top

**Hyuk Jang** 13CNL – Splash of Silence, shown left

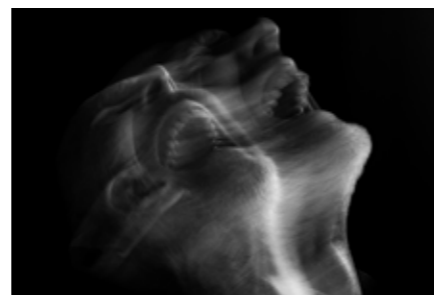
**Evita Woods** 12CES – Mary's Cross, shown right bottom

#### Junior category:

**Rudy Keane** 09HOD – Racing through childhood, shown right middle

**Jacob Aldiss** 09MKN – Retro Revival

**Isabelle Chan** 09CHN – Glow



## Blueprint Champions Again



MAGS Megacrew were crowned champions for the second year straight at The Blueprint Secondary Schools Street Dance competition held on July 11 at the Dorothy Winstone Centre.

The crew of 40 dancers gave a standout performance that gained them a standing

ovation - no mean feat with some other schools also giving stellar performances.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Huge props must go to the prefect leader Hailey Martin and deputy leaders Kyra-Leigh Masina and Elijah Poliko for their commitment and creative

choreography, and to the students themselves who have trained like athletes for this day – giving up the first three days of the holidays for 10am-4pm trainings.

"They were simply outstanding, and so deserved of the first placing."

# YOUDANCE



MAGS dancers were featured in the 2024 YouDance Auckland Youth Dance festival held at the Raye Freedman centre on June 27.

MAGS had four pieces selected. The Year 13 group choreography by Ms French, *Eye Spy*, and three thought-provoking student pieces, two of which are scholarship entries by Breanna Crawford and Josh Waqanivalu, and a third collaborative choreography by students Eved Ah Soon, Elijah Poliko and Josh Waqanivalu that was a tribute to Albertian Sir Bryan Williams.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "All students performed at their very best to a wonderful response from the audience and professional feedback."





# Unity CONCERT

A dazzling display of colour and diversity – this was the 2024 Unity Concert held at the Dorothy Winstone Centre on April 4 and 5.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Both nights were jam-packed audiences, who were vocal in their appreciation for all the performances."

"Eight cultural groups performed with skill and pride, and it was clear that there had been a lot of planning and practice."

"The representation of cultural movement and song, and the costuming were outstanding."

"There were so many highlights – the impressive display of movement, drumming and the entry of the Chinese dragon by the 65-strong Chinese group, the discipline and synchronicity of the impressive 80-strong Samoan group, and the vibrancy and colour introduced by the Indian and Cook Island groups."

"As well as the sheer joy and energy of the Fijian and Tongan groups, the polish and passion of the Kapa Haka group, and the energy and rhythm brought to the concert by the Latin group made sure this was a concert to remember."

*Photos / Lize Deng*





Artwork by Ignacia Martinez  
MAGS Alumna

MAGS  
ART  
SHOW

## Thank you to all our supporters!

The MAGS Art Show Committee would like to say a massive “thank you” to all of the volunteers who helped to produce another amazing Art Show this year.

We can’t do the show without all of our wonderful volunteers. We’d also like to thank all our sponsors – some of whom have been sponsoring us for years now.

A big thanks also to our Property Department who go the extra mile for the Show and to our school community – thanks to you for taking time to come and enjoy the Show and to support our arts students.



Proceeds from the show, which ran from August 2-4, will go to the MAGS Art Faculty and to the new Performing Arts Centre.

Thanks to our primary sponsors



# Momentum



The 2024 annual MAGS dance concert, Momentum, was held on May 28 and 29 at the Raye Freedman Arts Centre at EGGs.

Both shows were sold out and the audiences were treated to 70 minutes of a variety of dance styles from cultural dance, Jazz and Contemporary to Hip Hop, Disco and Salsa. All 267 dancers performed with commitment and enthusiasm, demonstrating expertise and performance skill.

Each class danced for performance credits, and the group pieces were interspersed with some remarkable creative works from Dance Scholarship students.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "The highlight of the evening was the slick and professional performance by the Senior Dance group who performed a tribute to the iconic choreographer Bob Fosse."

*Photos / Lize Deng*



# KAPA HAKA

On March 23, the school kapa – Te Kapa Haka o Te Puna o Wairaka – set out to perform at the annual ASB Polyfest at the Manukau Sports Bowl in Division 1.

Initially, they were scheduled to perform on Saturday at 8.35am, which meant a 3am wake-up time.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances, their bus, which was due to pick them up from Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae at Unitec at 6am, didn't show up.

Fortunately, the organisers of the event were extremely helpful and rescheduled the kapa to perform at 12.05pm, delaying the lunch break by half an hour.

HOF Māori Waimirangi Paul said, "Adding another spanner to the works was the torrential rain that poured down at the event, delaying



the performance even further by another 20 or so minutes!

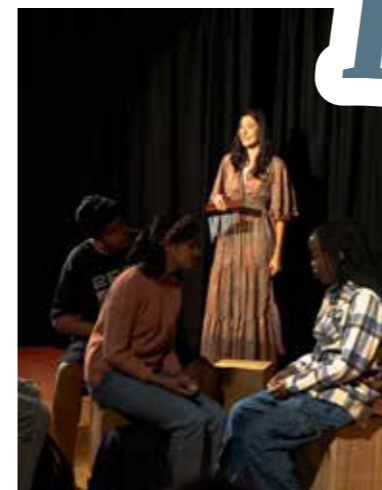
"In the end, the kapa was able to make it to the stage safely and performed a spectacular bracket, garnering much applause from whānau and supporters alike in the audience.

"The kapa placed 8th overall (out of 14 kapa haka), 4th overall for Mita o te reo (the command of te reo Māori throughout the bracket), placed 2nd for male kākahu (costuming), 3rd for female kākahu and won the 'Ngākau nui ki te kaupapa' trophy for commitment to the event.

Ms Paul added, "We are extremely proud of our kapa for representing our school in an exemplary manner, despite the ups and downs!"



## Bird-Dog



At the end of March, MAGS Drama showcased a special production of *Bird-Dog*, a play written by Albertian Emily Gough and HOD Carmela Hughes. The comedy play is centred around the aftermath of a mysterious murder in Matakana, where the people of the town are collectively losing brain cells trying to deal with an event that simply doesn't happen where they come from.

Once again selling out the season, Year 11 students delighted the audience, with their comedic performance skills bringing this play to life.

Photos / Lize Deng





# 12 Angry Men

MAGS Drama had another sold-out season for a production – this time with Level 3 Drama undertaking the mammoth story of *12 Angry Men* on June 6 and 7.

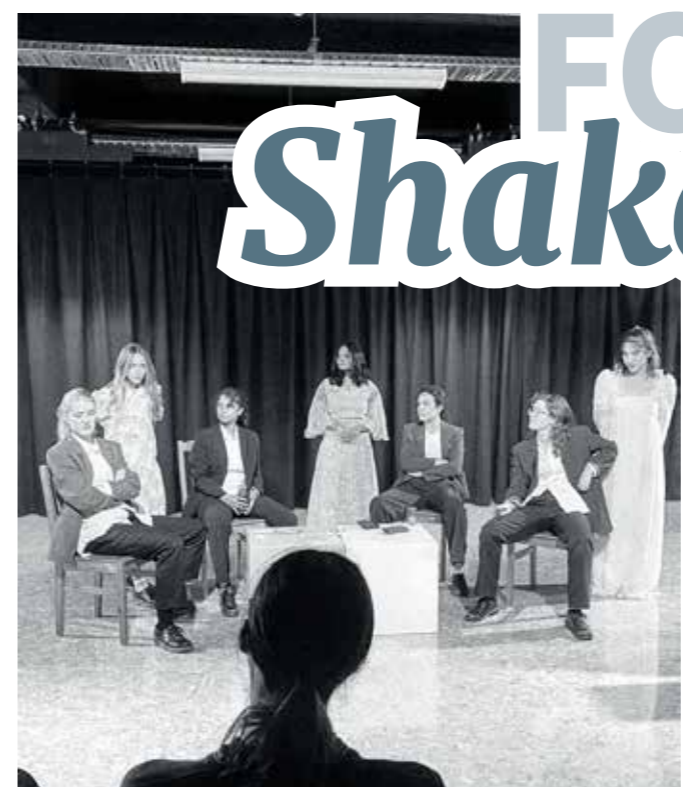
HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "Nineteen students, including 11 Year 12 Accelerates, performed to an extraordinarily high standard given the complexity of the script."

"They worked tirelessly over the past two months to learn their lines. This play had over 900 cues (the times at which people speak), which meant all 12 students on stage needed to know almost all the cues as they were all on stage at the same time having a 12-way conversation."

"They supported and encouraged each other enormously throughout this whole process and the outcome was fantastic."



# FOCUS ON Shakespeare



On April 5, MAGS Drama took over 40 students to compete in the Auckland Central competition for Sheilah Winn Shakespeare.

Six items were prepared – a mix of Level 2 students, student-directed pieces, and one piece directed by HOD Carmela Hughes.

The competition featured over 200 students and 43 items from seven schools.

MAGS came away with three prizes from the festival. The first was 'Best Student Director', which was awarded to Lamiya Sattar (Year 12) and Blu Jackson (Year 13) for their excerpt from *Taming of the Shrew*.

The second was 'Most Promising Young Actor', awarded to Sophia Armstrong (Year 10) for her performance of Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* – directed by Alexandria James (Year 12).

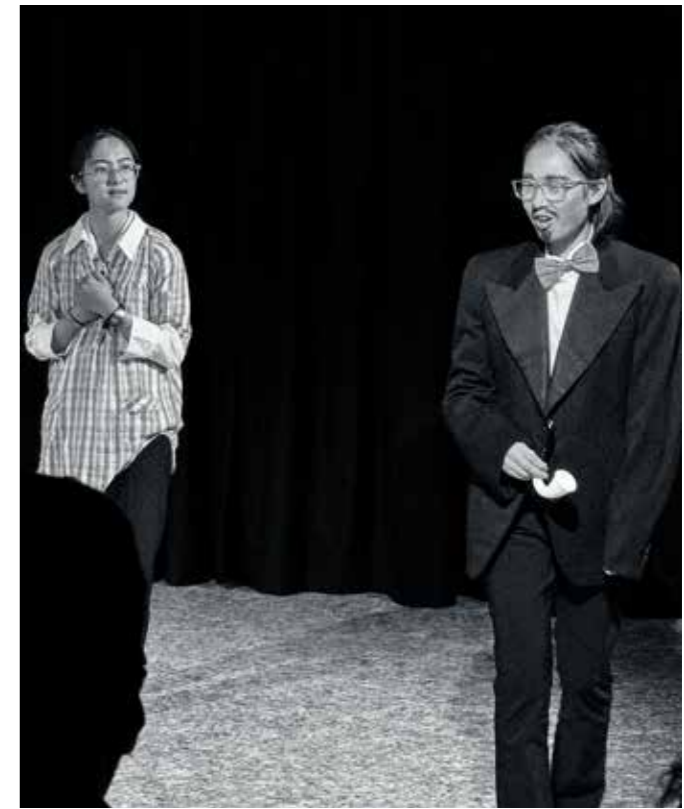
Thirdly, MAGS was awarded the prize of 'Best Work of an Ensemble', which went to an excerpt from *Hamlet* directed by Miss Hughes.

The students who performed in this excerpt were Ariana Kralicek, Alexandria James, Alysha Dodampegamage, Casey Pahulu, Imogen Bowman, Sneha Mandadi, Myra Smith, Lamiya Sattar and Paige Barnes-Kilgour.

On April 8, the Drama Department invited families, friends and MAGS staff and students to come and watch the Shakespeare Showcase, an event which marks the end of summer.

There were performances by Level 2 Elizabethan Theatre students, Level 3 Monologues, and items from Sheilah Winn.

Students were able to watch each other and give encouragement in what was a very special and successful evening.

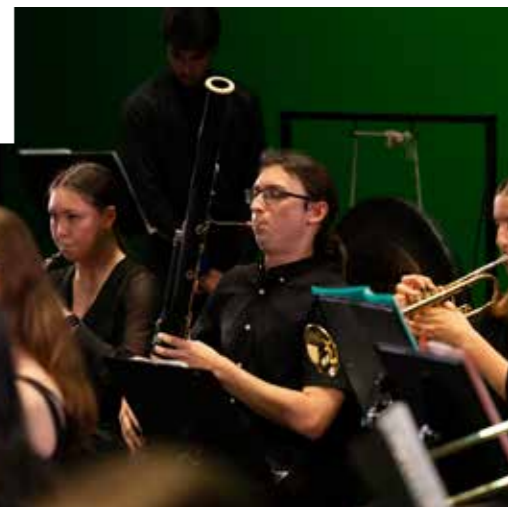




# Night AT THE Classics

The classical concert, Night at the Classics, was held at The Raye Freedman Arts Centre on July 3. A full and enthusiastic audience was wowed from the start by the Centennial and Gloriana choirs, and the momentum just kept going. Piano and violin trios and a professional level piano performance by Catherine Chen received loud applause from the audience. This was followed by Moonstars, who played an original

composition by student Zoe Burnett. Following this, the MAGS Chamber and Symphony orchestras skillfully played their repertoire as they prepared to represent MAGS at the KBB Festival. The audience gave unanimous praise for the programme, the musicians and the dedication and expertise of the Music staff – all boding well for a bright future for Music at MAGS.  
*Photos / Lize Deng*



# Slam the Jams



On June 21, the Mount Albert Grammar School's Music Department held their annual 'Slam the Jams' contemporary music concert.

The evening featured 13 performances from a mixture of solo artists, bands and school ensembles.

The concert started with a performance by the Ōwairaka Senior Jazz Combo featuring DJ Ioaba-Tuakanakore, who also took on MC duties. This was followed by the newly formed Melodica choir directed by Charlotte Nicklin.

Solo artists who contributed included Amelie McDowell, Emma Newland, Anouk Blackburn, Anaila Anisi and Sancy Prabhakar.

Notable performances included Year 11 students playing the 1980s Tears for Fears anthem *Everybody Wants to Rule the World*, Dominic Peterson's cover of *Holiday in Cambodia* by The Dead Kennedys and a short set from the melodic death metal band In Shade, who recently won the Auckland regional finals of the 2024 Rockquest.

The evening finished with Year 13 Modern Music students performing Crowded House's *Don't Dream It's Over* and The Breeders' *Cannonball*.

As well as student performers, the backstage and technical duties were run by students: Jess Somerville on sound and lighting and Lilaina Marshall acting as stage manager.

Photos / Ariana Xu



# BIG SING

Congratulations to the Centennial Choir and director Terence Maskell for being selected to perform at the prestigious Big Sing Finale, which brings together the best secondary school choirs from across the country.

The Big Sing Finale 2024 will be held at Wellington's Michael Fowler Centre from August 29-31.

The Centennial Choir also made the Finale last year and won a Gold Award as well as the Tour Time Cup for Best Performance of a piece of Choral Art Music.

They were one of three MAGS choirs who performed at the Big

Sing Auckland Regionals held at the Auckland Town Hall from June 18-20, the others being the newly formed Melodica and our girls choir Gloriana.

Music teacher Ms Fletcher said, "On the Tuesday, we had Melodica performing for the first time at Big Sing, and they did an amazing job. Big thanks to Charlotte Nicklin for all her efforts."

"On the Thursday, the Centennial Choir and Gloriana also did an outstanding job. They performed wonderfully at the Gala in the evening. Special thanks to choir directors Catherine Oxenham and Terence Maskell for their invaluable help with the choirs."



# Chamber Music



This year, three MAGS ensembles joined musicians from across New Zealand for the Chamber Music Contest at the Raye Freedman Arts Centre on June 6.

Moonstars, pictured above, .png, and A.C.E. all received fantastic feedback from the adjudicators.

Moonstars, competing in the 'Original Composition' category, performed *The Wandering Compass*, composed by MAGS student Zoe Burnett.

.png and A.C.E. embraced a Shostakovich theme. .png performed *Piano Trio No.2 in E minor, 4th Movement*, while A.C.E. performed *5 Pieces Two Violins and Piano*.

Despite nerves, it was a memorable day for many of our musicians. They embraced the challenge and delivered performances that impressed the judges.

# ATHLETICS



MAGS overall Athletics Champions for 2024 are, back row from left: Nina Chalmers (Intermediate Girls Champion), Ty Gonzales (Intermediate Boys Champion), Ryan Shen (Senior Boys Champion). Front row: Tommee Paeu (Senior Girls Champion), Reine Paeu (Junior Girls Champion), Jy Gonzales (Junior Boys Champion)

## NZSS ATHLETICS

Kendra Scally-Tui and Nina Chalmers won three gold medals between them at the New Zealand Secondary School Athletics Nationals late last year.

Kendra won the Junior Girls 100m and 200m. In the 200m final she ran an impressive time of 24.64 to win by 0.92 seconds and surpassed the MAGS Intermediate Girls school record for a second time. Her time also made her the Auckland U16 record holder.

In the 100m final, Kendra ran 12.28 to win the 100m/200m double.

She was named in the New Zealand Secondary Schools team based on her efforts at the meet.

Nina won the Junior Girls 800m event. After carefully managing her way through the heats and semis, she went with the front pack in the final and then controlled the finish, kicking on with 150m to go.

Peggy Taylor also set a school record in the Junior Girls 400m, where she finished a strong 4th in the final. She beat her own school record in 2023 with a time of 59.28 in the semi-final.

## MAGS ATHLETICS DAY

For the first time since 2020, we were able to host our Athletics Day at Mount Smart Stadium on February 21.

The main highlight of the day was Kendra Scally-Tui breaking two school records in the Intermediate Girls 100m and 200m. She came first in the 100m with a time of 12.07, beating the record of 12.14 that had stood since 2020.

Kendra also beat the 200m record that she set last year, with a time of 24.53.

During the distance events, Nina Chalmers also broke two records – the Intermediate Girls' 1500m and 3000m. She beat her own record in the 1500m by three seconds, with a time of 4:48.78. She also eclipsed the 3000m record that was set in 2017 by 17 seconds with an impressive time of 10:44.47.

Other highlights came from Ryan Shen, who showed his all-round athletic ability by winning the Senior Boys 100m, 200m, 400m, 110m hurdles, long jump and triple jump.

Dre Palavi won the Junior Boys shot put and javelin.

The throwing events in the Senior Girls saw the Discus being won by Tommee Paeu, with a throw of 28.21m, narrowly beating Dorothy Brunt. Tommee also won the shot put by 10cm with a throw of 10.07m.

In the Intermediate Girls category, Maddie Early won the 400m, long jump and triple jump. She also came second in the 100m. Anika Todd continued her success, with wins in the Senior Girls high jump and javelin.

## CENTRA/EAST/WEST ZONES

More than 60 students competed at the Central/East/West Zone Athletics in early March.

Kendra Scally-Tui finished 2nd in the 100m and 1st in the 200m. This included beating her own school record in the 200m with a time of 24.51.

Maddie Earley had good success both on the track and in the jumping pits. She finished 4th in both the 100m and 200m Intermediate Girls section. She also showed her promise as a jump athlete with a 2nd in the triple jump and a 1st in the long jump. Kendra and Maddie formed a 4 x 100m relay team with Zara Bint and Jessica Freeman to win with a time of 51.83.

Ella Kerrigan won the Junior Girls 100m with a time of 12.70. Ryan Shen won the Senior Boys Long Jump by 23cm with a jump of 6.24m and came 4th in the 200m.

## AKSS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On March 25, the Auckland Secondary School Athletics Championships took place at Mount Smart Stadium with 28 students representing the school, through qualifying at the zone meet.

Eight students and two relay teams came away with medals in their events.



MAGS Running, Throws and Jumps Champions for 2024 are, back row from left: Sam Carryer (Open 800m, Open 1500m and Open Distances Champion), Elijah Poliko (Open Field Events Champion), Ryan Shen (Open Sprints and Open 400m Champion). Front row: Dre Palavi (Junior Boys Throws Champion), Danii Mafoe (Senior Girls Sprint Champion), Pereise Utupo-Suluape (Junior Girls Throw Champion), Maddie Earley (Best Performing Girl in Jump Events at Auckland Champs).

## Students who medalled were:

**Maddie Earley:** 1st Intermediate Girls Long Jump

**Anika Todd:** 2nd Senior Girls Javelin

**Ty Gonzales:** 3rd Intermediate Boys Long Jump, 3rd Intermediate Boys 300m Hurdles

**Ryan Shen:** 3rd Senior Boys Long Jump

**Ella Kerrigan:** 2nd Junior Girls 100m

**Kendra Scally-Tui:** 1st Intermediate Girls 200m

**4 x 100m Intermediate Girls Relay (Zara Bint, Kendra Scally-Tui, Jessica Freeman, and Maddie Earley):** 1st

**Jy Gonzales:** 1st Junior Boys 300m Hurdles

**Sam Carryer:** 2nd Senior Boys 2000m Steeplechase

**4 x 400 Open Boys Relay (Ty Gonzales, Sam Carryer, Ryan Shen, Benjie Fairclough):** 2nd

Schools meet in Palmerston North in early April.

## Results:

**Ty Gonzales:** 4th in Intermediate Boys 100m Hurdles and 5th in Intermediate Boys 300m Hurdles.

**Jy Gonzales:** 4th in Junior Boys 80m Hurdles and 7th in Junior Boys 300m.

**Ryan Shen:** 3rd in Senior Boys 200m and 1st in Senior Boys Long Jump.

**Ella Kerrigan:** 3rd in Junior Girls 100m.



## NISS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four students represented the Auckland Region at the North Island Secondary



## AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the first week of the April school holidays, Kendra Scally-Tui represented NZ in the Women's U17 100m and 200m in Adelaide at the Australian Athletics Championships.

Kendra claimed the silver medal for her 200m with a time of 24.82s – an astounding result for the young sprinter.

In the 100m, Kendra successfully navigated the heats, qualifying for the finals later in the day, and placed 8th overall in Australia with a time of 12.51s.

## OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

In June, MAGS Year 11 student Kendra Scally-Tui was selected to represent New Zealand at the Oceania Area Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji.

She claimed gold in the U18 Women's 200m and set the Oceania Championship record in the process – it stood at 24.48s and she lowered it to 24.30s.

She also claimed a bronze medal in the U18 100m with a time of 12.30s, and silver in the U18 4x100m Relay in a time of 48.18s



# ARCHERY

Congratulations to Simon Atkinson, who won two gold medals at the Archery NZ Field Nationals in Hamilton in February.

He won Gold in the U14 Male Compound division for the Field rounds (marked and unmarked), and Gold in the Youth Mixed Matchplay division.

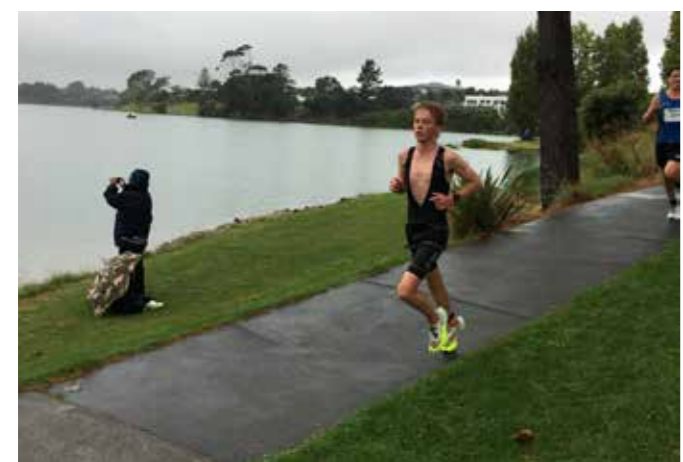
# AQUATHON

Nineteen students (seven teams of two and five individuals) competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Aquathon at Saint Kentigern College on March 12.

The conditions were overcast and drizzly but the water for the swim leg was calm. The overhead conditions made racing comfortable for all competitors.

Several students were doing this event for the first time. The day proved successful for three students who came away with medals. Theo Bray (Year 12) backed up his win at the Auckland Secondary Schools Triathlon with a commendable 2nd place in the Senior Boys individual category. Theo finished the 750m swim and 6km run in a time of 32:16.

In the Senior Boys teams race, Ike Ancell and Jesse Burge (both Year 13) finished 3rd with a combined time of 33.06 in what was a competitive race. Other positive results came from Lilaina Marshall (Year 13), who was first after the swim leg in the Senior Girls race and finished 6th overall. The Intermediate Girls team of Isabelle Spreitzer and Ailsa Taylor finished 10th in a strong field. Jack Tyler and Ted Waters finished 7th in the Intermediate Boys section.



# CRICKET

On February 10, Luis Kerrigan hit the highest score ever recorded for MAGS in a competition game.

His 159 vs Rosmini College at MAGS surpassed a score of 155 by former Blackcap Graeme Vivian in 1963.

It was Luis's second century for the 1st XI following his innings against Hamilton Boys High in a warm-up match in January.

A copy of the scorecard was presented to Luis by Headmaster Mr Drumm at the Year 12 Headmaster's Assembly.

The Boys 1st XI defeated Rosmini College by 150 after posting a record score of 351 when asked to bat first. Skipper Felix Naish scored 67.

The Cricket Boys 1st XI T20 team batted first and won the Auckland Secondary Schools T20 Championship for 2024.

In the final at Melville Park on March 14, St Kentigern won the toss and asked MAGS to bat on a rain-affected wicket.

At 4/39 MAGS were in a spot of bother, with only Krish Bhargavaram showing much resistance with 23 off 25 balls.

Captain Felix Naish joined Jaskaran Sandhu at the crease and



added 40 before Jaskaran was out. Felix continued to completely dominate the opposition bowlers with power hitting and sensible decision-making as he batted with the tail in a captain's knock, and an ultimately match-winning performance, of 70 from 39 balls.

After MAGS made 144/6, St Kents were in the game throughout but their chase was stifled by the loss of regular wickets due to MAGS' tight bowling and some great moments in the field.

St Kents were eventually all out for 121 in the 19th over following some miserly bowling from vice-captain Aaqib Aadil (1/12 off 4), three wickets from Krish Bhargavaram, and some great death bowling from Yann Rowe, with two wickets in the 19th over and a wicket and only two runs off the 17th over.



The team began the tournament with a two-run win off the last ball of the game over Howick College.

To qualify for the semi-finals MAGS had a tough game against Glendowie College, which they won by 13 runs.

MAGS met Epsom Girls Grammar School (EGGS) in the semi-final for the third time in five years, having lost the two previous semi-final encounters to them.

MAGS set a total of 114, and after the first 10 overs the game was evenly split with EGGS on 57. However, with some crucial fielding and bowling the team held EGGS to 109/7.

This team became the first MAGS side to qualify for the final of this tournament.

They then played Takapuna Grammar School in the final and continued to bowl and field well, restricting TGS to 122 but MAGS ultimately fell short by nine runs.

The batting was led by Georgia Nansett with 34 runs, Kadee Setters with 16 runs and Grace Oram with 21 runs.

In Summer Tournament Week, the 1st XI Girls Cricket side finished runners-up at the Venus Cup Qualifier tournament.

The winner of this tournament represents the Auckland region at the Nationals in December.





Our 2024 Cross Country Champions are, back row from left, Nina Chalmers (Senior Girls Champion), Theo Bray (Senior Boys Champion), Hazel Helmore (Intermediate Girls Champion). Front row: Jy Gonzales (Junior Boys Champion), Claudia Verkleij (Junior Girls Champion), Matias Nunez Guterrez (Intermediate Boys Champion).

# CROSS country

The school cross country took place on April 8 (Girls – Year 9s, Year 10s and Seniors) and April 9 (Boys – Year 9s, Year 10s, Seniors and School House).

Conditions on both days were sunny and comfortable.

The students completed the traditional cross-country course of running around our lower fields, onto Alberton Ave, around the school farm and back on the lower fields to finish.

The competitive senior boys did two laps of the course.

## Results:

**Year 9 Girls (Junior)** – 1st Claudia Verkleij, 2nd Summer Bundock, 3rd Stella O’Sullivan.

**Year 9 Boys (Junior)** – 1st Jy Gonzales, 2nd Jasper Metcalfe, 3rd Lennix Tolcher.

**Year 10 Girls (Intermediate)** – 1st Hazel Helmore, 2nd Olivia Appleton, 3rd Ellie Kerridge.

**Year 10 Boys (Intermediate)** – 1st Matias Nunez Gutierrez, 2nd Conrad Priest, 3rd Luca Darling.

**Senior Girls** – 1st Nina Chalmers, 2nd Anna Batcheler, 3rd Marley Pearce.

**Senior Boys** – 1st Theo Bray, 2nd Sam Carryer, 3rd Jesse Burge.

Assistant Director of Sport Mr Crossan said, "Highlights over the two days included some close finishes for the podium spots. In the Year 10 Boys race, only three seconds separated first and second place. There was also a close finish in the Year 9 Girls race with 12 seconds separating the top six placings."



## AKSS CROSS COUNTRY

On May 22, 26 students represented the school at the Auckland Cross Country Champs at Lloyd Elsmore Park.

This was the only inter-school cross country event in Auckland this year due to not having a zone meet. There were close to 600 competitors across the various age/gender categories. After heavy rain earlier in the week, the course was still in good condition and the sun was shining on the day.

The best performing MAGS student was Theo Bray. He finished 9th in a strong Senior Boys category that consisted of 63 runners. Theo completed the 6km course in 21:16. Jy Gonzales finished a credible 16th in the Junior Boys section in a large field of 124 competitors. The other top 20 finish was Nina Chalmers, who finished 20th in the Intermediate Girls section.

In the combined points competition, our top three finishers in the Senior Boys competition (Theo Bray, Sam Carryer and Henry Hills) finished 4th in the 3 Person event. We also had top 10 finishes in the Junior Girls 3 person (10th), Junior Boys 3 Person (8th) and Intermediate Girls 3 Person (7th).



# CHEER LEADING

Congratulations to Katie Archibald, who was part of New Zealand's All Star Cheerleaders Academy team that made history as the first Kiwi team to claim gold in the International All Girl Elite Division at the Cheerleading World Championships.

This year's competition was held at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, and saw 563 teams from 21 countries competing.

Katie also represented NZ at the International Cheer Union World Champs, where the NZ All Girl Cheerleading team won silver, narrowly missing out on gold to Japan.



# CLIMBING

The third round of the Auckland College Climbing Series was held at Vertical Adventures in Glen Eden at the beginning of July.

MAGS had a mix of novice and experienced climbers in this top rope competition.

In the Junior Girls division, Chloe Petrie placed 23rd and Maddi Vaughan 25th in what was only their second event.

For Senior Girls, Yvette Luo placed 16th, Anna Swan 21st, and Anna Batcheler 22nd. For the boys in the senior section,

Thevindu Senarath, our novice, placed 45th whilst Riley Hobbs set a personal best, placing 17th and finishing as the second-highest-placed Year 11 student in the senior division.

Our top climbers for the day, though, were our junior boys with Brennan Scouller placing 31st again with a PB including several tops, Thomas Roberts in 23rd, and Ronin Ng in 9th placing, missing the final by just one point.

The final round is at Boulder Co., the climbers' home gym, in August.

# duATHLON

On June 11, 10 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Duathlon, held at the Pukekohe Park Raceway.

After some early drizzle in the morning cleared, conditions were comfortable despite some wind on the open course. Competitors ran around the horse racing track and completed the cycle leg around the old motorsport track.

MAGS came away with five top-three placings across various categories.

In the Junior Boys Open Bike section, Jacob Aldiss finished second in a time of 59:04. The Junior Boys' team of Luke McGowan and Tom Gaskell came second also in the teams section. They had the second-fastest run in both legs and third-fastest cycle. Their course consisted of a 3km run, 11km cycle and 2.4km run.

Olivia Appleton finished third in the Intermediate Girls Open Bike category, completing with a time of 1:11.10. Jessica Loxton finished first in the same section on the back of a strong cycle leg that was nearly three minutes faster than the next best cycle leg. Jessica finished with a time of 1:09.23. Blake Climo finished third in the Intermediate Boys Open Bike section, completing the course in 1:13.11. Their course consisted of a 4.6km run, 14km cycle and 2.4km run to finish.

Theo Bray continued his good multi-sport form, coming second in the competitive Senior Boys section. He has had three top-three placings across the triathlon, aquathlon and duathlon this year. Theo had a narrow lead after the first run leg and stayed in the hunt for first place throughout the race. He completed the 4.6km run, 19 km bike and 2.4km run course in an impressive time of 55:59.



# Equestrian

The MAGS Equestrian team competed in two NISS events in June and gained some excellent results.

The NISS Horse Trials were held in Taupo across two days. Fleur Cato, Ruby Cato and Grace Taku competed across dressage, show jumping and cross country disciplines. The combined results for each individual rider saw Grace gain a second in the 80cm class and Fleur gain a fifth in the 90cm.

The NISS Show Hunter competition was held at Saint Peter's Cambridge. Sophie Mackenzie gained two firsts and a second competing over four classes.

TIC Mrs Charman said, "A fantastic effort from both the students and parents."

# FENCING

Congratulations to Emi Mason, pictured below left, who won gold with the Auckland Women's A Team at the NZ U20 qualifier for the Commonwealth U17 and U20 championships in early March.

Emi also finished 7th as an individual, while Shubhi Roy earned a bronze medal with the Auckland Women's B Team.

In the Men's, Elijah Yarr won a bronze with the Auckland Men's B Team.

MAGS Fencers made a flying start to the 2024 Auckland School League in March, taking home gold, silver and bronze medals.

In the Boys Epee, Elijah Yarr took gold while Thomas Pham claimed bronze. And in the Girls Epee, Shubhi Roy won silver.

MAGS Fencers returned some great results in the Auckland Age Group competition in late March.

In the Boys U17 category, there was gold for Elijah Yarr and silver for Thomas Pham. In the Girls U17 category, Shubhi Roy took silver and Emi Mason the bronze. In the Boys U15, Thomas Pham claimed another silver.

As part of attempting to qualify for Commonwealth U17 Championship

selection, a group of three students competed in Christchurch in early April against some strong opposition in the Southern Regional U17 Championship.

Shubhi Roy fought tactically in a very close final in the Girls U17 event. She held her nerve against the local favourite to win in extra time by a single hit.

Elijah Yarr followed that up by reaching the final in the Boys U17 event.

The local favourite was too strong on the day, and Elijah came away with a credible sliver.

Nico Meyer started the day fencing really well, coming out of the initial pool rounds seeded 2nd, but went down by one point in a close match to finish 5th.

MAGS Fencers enjoyed a good four days at the NZ Age Group Fencing championships in late April.

Seven students competed in six epee events, with Thomas Pham coming away with an impressive medal haul: Silver, U17 Individual; Silver, U17 Auckland A Team; Gold U15 Auckland A Team; Bronze, U15 Individual.



Other medal winners were Shubhi Roy: Silver, U17 Individual; Gold, U17 Auckland A team; Emi Mason: Bronze, U17 Individual; Bronze U17 Auckland B Team; Elijah Yarr: Silver, U17 Auckland A Team; and Nico Meyer: Bronze, U17 Auckland B Team.

Congratulations to the five MAGS students who competed at the Commonwealth Junior & Cadet Fencing Championship in Christchurch from July 12-19.

There were only 10 spots in the NZ U17 Epee Team up for grabs and five of these were taken by Emi Mason, Shubhi Roy, Thomas Pham, Elijah Yarr and Nico Meyer.

Their coach, Kyle Macdonald, was also announced as NZ's Head Epee coach.

Emi and Shubhi won bronze as part of the NZ team.

They were part of the girls team that had a convincing win over Wales, before losing to India and claiming a bronze medal.

In the individual event, Emi finished the best of the NZ fencers in 7th place, losing to the gold-placed English fencer.



# GYMSPORTS

The Auckland Secondary Schools Gymsports Championships took place at Pulman Park on June 13 with two students competing: Year 9s Mila Morton and Chloe Petrie.

Chloe had a busy day, competing in three disciplines with good success. She gained the following results: Trampoline (B Grade): Gold, Tumbling: Bronze, Artistic (Step 7): 5th.

Mila competed in the Trampoline (National Category) and finished 8th in a strong competition out of 16 competitors.





# Football

The Football Girls 1st XI showed great pre-season form on April 10 when they travelled to Takapuna Grammar and won the Grammar Cup.

They played against three teams: Epsom Girls, Takapuna Grammar and an U13 Takapuna boys team.

Coach Ms Inwood said, "The girls showed skill, professionalism and dominance throughout the tournament and won all three matches, winning the tournament. It is a great start for the girls and we are all looking forward to the start of the season."

# FUTSAL



During Summer Tournament Week, our Junior Girls Futsal team were crowned national champions at the NZSS tournament in Wellington.

The Junior Girls scored two goals in the final minutes to beat Wellington East Girls College 4-3.

The Senior Boys Futsal team claimed silver after losing 2-1 to a heartbreaking last-minute goal in the final against St Patrick's College Wellington.

In their competition, the Senior Girls finished fifth.



# LAWN BOWLS

After being rained off earlier in the term, April 8 saw Mt Eden Bowls Club host the Auckland Schools Lawn Bowls Pairs Championship, in what was the biggest of these events to date.

A strong MAGS contingent ranged from some seasoned players to a few beginners, and everyone benefited from the advice from the club reps who were on hand to help.

Honours for the highest-ranked MAGS team go to Year 10s Finley Prebble and Toby Newcombe, who were one of only a handful of unbeaten teams. Unfortunately, some close games meant they didn't quite have a good enough points differential to make the podium, but finished a credible sixth.

Congratulations, too, to Year 10s Mackenzi Goff and Olivia Hart, who were named the best novice team by the coaches after winning their first three games, and then narrowly missed out on beating Finley and Toby in the last game.

# ORIENTEERING



## WESTERN ZONE SPRINT SERIES

The Western Zone Sprint series wrapped up in March at Green Bay High School. MAGS once again put in a solid performance, winning the three boys grades (junior, intermediate, senior).

- Senior Boys** - 1st Matthew Greenwood
- Intermediate Boys** - 1st William Wood
- Junior Boys** - 1st Max Roebeck

## AUCKLAND SPRINT FINALS

Twenty eight MAGS students attended the Auckland Sprint Zones in early April.

Despite a number of students feeling the effects of running marathons the day before at Relay for Life, some superb results were achieved.

- Senior Boys:** 2nd Sam Carryer, 3rd Matthew Greenwood, 4th James Milne
- Senior Girls:** 5th Anna Batchelor
- Intermediate Boys:** 1st Tahi Harris, 3rd William Wood

## NATIONAL ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over the Easter break, 11 MAGS students attended the National Orienteering Championships in Rotorua and Taupo, held on the notoriously difficult Carter Block map.

The event doubled as the trials for Junior World and European Youth Championships. Three MAGS students were selected to represent NZ:

- Junior World Championships - Czech Republic** - Sam Carryer
- European Youth Championships - Poland** - Ami McGowan, Matthew Greenwood, Sam Carryer

## NISS CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the second week of the April school holidays, 41 MAGS Orienteers competed in the North Island Secondary School Champs.

The competition took place over three days, with events held in North Auckland venues: AUT Campus (Sprint), Mairetahi Forest (Long) and Riverhead Forest (Relay).

Both boys and girls teams gained fantastic results, culminating in the Boys team being crowned Top North Island School and Premier Boys Champions (for the 8th year in a row). The Girls team gained third place overall (for the 5th year running).

The boys won all three relay titles (Junior, Intermediate, Senior). The girls gained two thirds, in the Intermediate and Senior.

### Highlights included:

- Junior grade:** Max Roebeck 3rd in Sprint, Ben Spreitzer 3rd in Long.
- Intermediate grade:** Tahi Harris 2nd in Sprint and 2nd in Long.
- Senior Grade:** Sam Carryer 1st in Sprint and 2nd in Long, James Milne 3rd in Sprint, Matthew Greenwood 3rd in Long and Anna Batchelor 3rd in Long.

### Relay Results:

- Junior Boys 1:** 1st (Max Roebeck, Cameron Taylor, Ben Spreitzer)
- Intermediate Boys 1:** 1st (William Wood, Charlie Milne, Tahi Harris)
- Senior Boys 1:** 1st (Oscar Vink, Matthew Greenwood, Sam Carryer)
- Senior Boys 2:** 2nd (Alistair Clarke, Felix McElwee, James Milne)
- Intermediate Girls:** 3rd (Zara Bint, Eloise Whitehead, Isabel Spreitzer)
- Seniors Girls 1:** 3rd (Charli Spence, Anna Batchelor, Ami McGowan)

## AKSS RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

In May, the MAGS Orienteering team headed to Ambury Farm for the Auckland Secondary School Relay Champs.

The highlight was the boys' teams winning all three grades of the competition.

### Results:

- Senior Boys A** - 1st - Sam Carryer, Matthew Greenwood, Oscar Vink
- Senior Boys B** - 3rd - Reuben Adye, Felix McElwee, James Milne
- Intermediate Boys A** - 1st - Tahi Harris, Charlie Milne, William Wood
- Intermediate Boys B** - 3rd - Reuben Bruce, Caleb Green, Jack Trowsdale
- Junior Boys A** - 1st - Max Roebeck, Ben Spreitzer, Cameron Taylor
- Junior Boys B** - 3rd - Vaden Haver, Ruden Lang, Hugh Cornforth
- Intermediate Girls A** - 5th - Zara Bint, Isabel Spreitzer, Eloise Whitehead
- Junior Girls A** - 4th - Chloe Petrie, Emma Whitehead, Macy Stone

## AUCKLAND FOREST CHAMPIONSHIPS

On June 18, about 20 students headed out to Woodhill Forest for the Auckland Forest

### Orienteering Championships.

All competitors took on the forest and completed the challenging courses.

Top podium results were achieved for Tahi Harris, 1st in Intermediate Boys, and Reuben Adye, 2nd in Senior Boys.

There were top five placings for Oscar Vink (4th Senior Boys), Charlie Milne (5th Intermediate Boys) and an impressive 4th placing for Reuben Butterworth in the Junior Boys race.

At the end of the day, Hugh Skinner (acting Captain of the Boys Orienteering team) was presented with the Top Boys School Award for the highest overall points from the event.

# MOUNTAIN BIKING

At the Cycling New Zealand Schools North Island Mountain Bike Championships in Rotorua in April, Hunter Marsh represented MAGS in all three individual events - Cross Country, Downhill and Enduro.

Racing in the Under 16 category, one of the largest age groups, Hunter rode against some strong competitors and placed third overall for his age.



# Snow SPORTS

Nine students competed at the Auckland Secondary School Snowboard Champs at Snow Planet on June 6.

TIC Mr Huang said, "Despite some tough competition, our students demonstrated skill and determination, resulting in a commendable medal haul."

Gina Fisk secured the bronze medal in the Junior Girls Slopestyle event. Hanyang Liu earned bronze in the Dual Race category. Caleb Vincent claimed the silver medal in the Junior Slalom race.

Mr Huang said, "Additionally, our collective efforts led to success in the Teams Race. Hanyang Liu, Caleb Vincent and Lucas Turner secured the gold medal in this category, showcasing their solid performance."

# Squash



On May 21, our Junior Boys Squash team convincingly won their One Day Tournament at Eden Epsom Squash.

Year 10s Eric Wen, Leo Labrum, Oscar Bourne and Declan Kiw were too good for the competition all day, and beat King's College 9-0 in the final.



MAGS hosted its annual Swimming Sports Day in February, with more than 60 students participating – from experienced club swimmers to Year 9s giving it a go for the first time.

Although there were no school records broken this year, there was still lots of fast and close racing, resulting in two first-equals in two of the girls age groups.

### Results:

#### Junior Girls (13 and under)

1st = Ava Winn	53
1st = Sammie Visser	53
3rd Navya Sood	29

#### Intermediate Girls (14-15)

1st Bianca Chan	51
2nd Macy Hains	47
3rd Olivia Wheeler	32

#### Senior Girls (16 and over)

1st = Kate Wheeler	50
1st = Khaleen Quensell	50
3rd Lilaina Marshall	43

#### Junior Boys (13 and under)

1st Jonny Joseph	54
2nd Alexis Goatley	53
3rd Thomas Humphries	4

#### Intermediate Boys (14 – 15)

1st Hiro Kuniyasu Tau	50
2nd Tarquinius Schwalger	46
3rd Tarran Tyson	37

#### Senior Boys (16 and over)

1st Taiga Ueno	52
2nd Kayden Te Anga	45
3rd Palepua Afoa	42



Our 2024 Swimming Champions are, front row from left: Ava Winn (Joint Junior Girls Champion), Kate Wheeler (Joint Senior Girls Champion), Khaleen Quensell (Joint Senior Girls Champion), Bianca Chan (Intermediate Girls Champion) Back Row: Taiga Ueno (Senior Boys Champion), Hiro Tau (Intermediate Boys Champion), Jonny Joseph (Junior Boys Champion) Inset: Sammie Visser (Joint Junior Girls Champion)

# SWIMMING



# ROWING

### MAADI CUP

Podium finishes for four top crews have made the 2024 Maadi Regatta the most successful for MAGS since the school's rowing programme was re-established.

Olivia Tattersfield won gold in the Girls U17 Single Sculls at Maadi, becoming the first female rower to win gold for MAGS. The win also comes with a new single scull boat from skiff-builders Laszlo and Aon, the overall event sponsor, which will go to the school and provide a valuable training and race tool for future MAGS rowers.

Olivia also won silver with Lily Curnow in the Girls U18 Coxless Pair Oars, with an impressive row that saw them hold off tough competition from other North and South Island crews and complete the Lake Ruataniwha course in a time of 7:45.32.

The MAGSROW senior boys crew of Max Jarvie and Luke Sanders also won silver in the Boys U18 Coxless Pair Oars in a time of 7:05.16. Fraser MacGillivray and Ethan Green also qualified for the A Final of this event but missed out on a podium finish.

Showing their strength as a top crew, Max, Ethan, Luke and Fraser came together in the Boys U18 Coxed Four event – with cox Hamish Toogood – to win bronze.

Another major achievement from this year's Maadi Regatta, held from March 18-23, is that both senior crews qualified for the A Final of the premiere events – with the Girls U18 Coxed Eight vying for the Levin Jubilee Cup and the Boys U18 Coxed Eight vying to take home the Maadi Cup.

### AKSS REGATTA

For the first time ever, the MAGS rowing squad won both the Boys and Girls U18 Coxed Eight at the College Sport Auckland Schools Regatta, held at Lake Karapiro.

The MAGS crews also won gold in both the boys and girls events for the U18 Coxless Pair Oars and U18 Coxed Four. There were also golds for the Girls U18 Double Sculls, Girls U18 Single Sculls and Girls U17 Coxless Pair.

The historic wins were part of an incredible performance for MAGSROW, which saw the squad win gold in nine rowing events, two silvers, two bronzes and another four top placings in division two events.

MAGS won silver in the Women's Club Coxed Eight, the Men's Open Coxed Eight and the Women's Senior Coxless Pair Oars, and bronze in the Men's Senior Coxless Four event.

Albertian Holly Chaafe — who is now one of the MAGSROW coaches — also took out gold in the Women's Senior Single Sculls.



Olivia Tattersfield won gold in the Girls U17 Single Sculls at the Maadi Cup, becoming the first female rower to win gold for MAGS at the event.



The Boys U18 Coxed Eight joined the Girls U18 Coxed Eight in winning at the AKSS Regatta.

### NISS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAGS rowers put in an impressive performance at the 2024 North Island Secondary School Championships in March, winning a number of gold and silver medals in their final full-squad regatta for the season.

MAGSROW crews won gold in the Girls U18 Coxless Pair Oars with Olivia Tattersfield and Lily Curnow, and in the Girls U17 Coxless Pair Oars with Emma Curnow and Lilah Martin. Olivia Tattersfield also won silver in the Girls U18 Single Sculls event.

Max Jarvie and Luke Sanders won silver in the Boys U18 Coxless Pair Oars and in the Boys U18 Coxed Four with Ethan Green, Fraser MacGillivray and cox Hamish Toogood.

Every senior MAGS crew made it into the A Final for their events.

The three-day regatta held at Lake Karapiro (March 1-3) also saw strong performances from the squad's younger crews, with both the boys and girls novice crews making it into the A Final of their Coxed Eight events. The Boys U16 Coxed Four crew also made their A Final.



## TRIATHLON

On February 20, 16 students (four individuals and four teams) competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Triathlon at Maraetai Beach.

The day proved to be a successful one for our students, picking up two medals.

Theo Bray (Year 12, pictured above) competing as a Senior for the first time, won the Senior Boys category by over a minute from his nearest rival. He completed the 750m swim, 16km cycle and 5km run in a time of 58:40. This is great progress by Theo, who finished third in the Intermediate section last year.

Our Junior Boys team, consisting of Luke McGowan, Tom Gaskell and Lucas Izzard (all Year 9, pictured below), came away with a silver medal. This was their first time representing the school. Their course distance was a 250m swim, 8km cycle and 3km run. They finished in a combined time of 39:31.

Other notable efforts came from our two Intermediate Girls teams, who finished fourth and fifth. Both teams were competing in this event for the first time. Lilaina Marshall was second after the swim leg in the Senior Girls race to finish fifth overall.



## TENNIS

Our 2024 Tennis Champions were recognised at assembly in June and presented with their trophies.

They are, pictured above, back row: Ethan Au (Junior Boys Champion), Erueti Selwyn (Intermediate Boys Champion),

Front row: Chelsea Wintjes (Senior Girls Champion and Open Girls Doubles Champion), Amelie Kelly (Open Girls Doubles Champion and Open Mixed Doubles Champion), Charlie van der Heide (Junior Girls Champion), Belma Alisic (Intermediate Girls Champion).

And pictured right, from left, Dinghui

Liu and Wesley Deng (Open Boys Doubles Champions).

Absent: Myles Kelly (Senior Boys Champion and Open Mixed Doubles Champion).



## Underwater HOCKEY

The MAGS Senior Open Underwater Hockey team travelled to Tauranga for the Northern Zone tournament over the weekend of June 21-22, with help from Mr Robertson and Mrs Kemp

This tournament is a qualifier for nationals and features Auckland teams that play against each other on Tuesdays as well as teams from the Tauranga/Rotorua region.

MAGS' first game was against Mahurangi, who entered a composite team who would drop to the bottom of the rankings at the end of the round robin. Mahurangi managed to win 8-0 but it was a good chance for MAGS to dust off the cobwebs and get settled in. They would have two more games on the Saturday, a loss to Glendowie 5-0 and a win against Trident 2-0.

Sunday saw a loss against Howick 8-0 and a very tight loss to Tauranga Boys 2-1. This was a very close game with both teams pressuring each other's goal bin throughout the game, resulting in some fantastic defence.



With Mahurangi dropping down, MAGS finished as the 4th seed and played a semi-final against Glendowie, who won 11-0, eventually going on to win the whole tournament.

This meant a playoff for third against Tauranga, and an even closer game – finishing 1-1. Tauranga came out on top in extra time but again it was a back and forth game that either team could have won and the MAGS players should be very proud of their efforts. This fourth place finish means the team has qualified for nationals, in Tauranga again, on August 31 to September 3.

Congratulations to James Neilson for being the team's MVP. Also, all members of the team were named in the trial squad for the Northern U18 team.

## WHANGAREI BOYS HIGH EXCHANGE

It was fantastic to host Whangarei Boys High School in early April, only the second time they have visited MAGS since the traditional exchange was restarted in 2021.

This year there were eight matches with Basketball, Hockey, Football, Rugby, Squash and Volleyball in the sporting arena and Debating in the academic challenge. MAGS won six of the eight matches to retain the challenge shield.

With 120 boys competing from both schools, the WOH Gibbs Room was at capacity for the after-match.

Deputy Principal Allie Wright said, "Thanks to Whangarei for travelling through

the difficult roading; we thoroughly enjoyed hosting and look forward to next year's challenge."

### Results:

**Basketball Junior Boys** – MAGS won 61-56

**Basketball Premier Boys** – MAGS won 95-44

**Debating** – MAGS won

**Football** – MAGS won 7-2

**Hockey** – WBHS won 5-0

**Rugby** – MAGS won 19-10

**Squash** – WBHS won 4-0

**Volleyball** – MAGS won 3-0



## WAKA AMA



Waka Ama goes from strength to strength at MAGS, with three gold medals, plus two trophies at the AKSS Waka Ama Championships in March.

MAGS won the U19 Mixed gold in the W12, and the Boys won the W6 500 and 250, the Division Championship award and U19 W6 trophy.

The Girls won W6 silver in the 250m and bronze in the 500m. It's been a rapid rise through the ranks as MAGS first entered the AKSS Waka Ama Championships in 2019, and won the novice trophy that year.

In early April, with many schools entering close to actual club teams preparing for this year's world sprint champs, competition was always going to be tight at the Waka Ama Nationals.

MAGS Paddlers aimed to make as many Championship finals as possible – and achieved this goal, being quite unlucky not to podium in two team events.

This was also the first year that Canoe Racing NZ (K1) ran a national secondary schools event. At short notice, MAGS entered a few K1 events and did very well considering the students had not had any

previous experience.

Both Marnie and Marlin Toloa successfully defended their national titles, coming first in the J16 Girls W1 and J19 Boys W1 respectively.

The Boys W6 500m came fourth in the hotly contested Championship final, while the Boys W6 250m were coming third in the Championship final but a course correction to avoid a possible lane infringement cost them precious seconds and they did not podium. In the J16 Boys W1, LaRome Waihirere won the Championship final only to be disqualified for a lane infringement.

The W12 mixed made the championship final.

In the K1 250m, U16 Girls – Marnie made the final in her 1st K1 event, U16 Boys – LaRome made the final, and U19 Boys – Marlin made a semi final.

In the K1 relay, U16 Boys – LaRome teamed up with students from Whakatane High and came fourth in the 4 x 100m K1 relay final, and in the U19 Boys – Marlin teamed up with students from Gisborne Boys High, Whakatane High and Te Rangi Aniwaniwa and came third in the 4 x 100m K1 relay final.



# WEIGHTLIFTING

Eli Harford-Lewis (Year 13) competed in the Auckland Secondary Schools Weightlifting Champs, held at the Kolmar Sports Centre in Papatoetoe on May 18.

Eli competed in a strong field in the boys 102-plus kg division, and came a credible

third and achieved personal bests in both the Snatch and Clean and Jerk. He lifted 88kg in the Snatch and 110 kg in the Clean and Jerk. This was for a combined total of 198 kgs.



# WATER POLO

MAGS sent a Senior Boys and Senior Girls team to the Secondary School Waterpolo Championships in Hamilton during the April school holidays.

The Boys competed in Division 2 and won the silver medal.

They won five out of their six games with some amazing goal-scoring.

Sadly, the side is losing six players as they are Year 13s – Blair Foster, Teddy Wilson, Anton Van Aken, Darius Leyland, Ike Ancell and Ethan Tait.

The Girls also played in Division 2 after a few years of being unable to attend. While the girls didn't come away with medals, they still achieved something worth celebrating.

As a new team consisting of both juniors and seniors, they played a total of seven games across four days, winning their last three games by working together closely. This sets them up for success in the 2025 season.



# wrestling

Max Shallard won Bronze at the Oceania Champs in Guam in late January in the U20 under 65kg category.

Beforehand, Max had a great week at Tokyo University, training with Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Yukako Kawai.

The Auckland Secondary Schools Wrestling Championships took place on May 17 at Dilworth College.

Mount Albert Grammar School entered 10 students in this event across various age and weight divisions. There was a strong mix of experienced wrestlers and some students in their first wrestling competition.

Our students put on a strong showing throughout the day with some exceptional results that led to MAGS receiving the top overall school award. This was a great achievement as the two schools that came second and third had more wrestlers than MAGS.

Several of our wrestlers went through the day undefeated, winning three or four fights. They

were Aiden Vincent, Dre Palavi, Max Shallard and Ryan Harding. Across the day, seven students won medals in their division.

### Results:

- Bronze:** Louis Collis – Senior Boys Under 76 kg
- Silver:** Caleb Murphy – Senior Boys Under 76 kg
- Silver:** Jude Verryt – Senior Boys Under 63 kg
- Gold:** Aiden Vincent – Junior Boys Under 69 kg
- Gold:** Dre Palavi – Junior Boys 100 + kg
- Gold:** Max Shallard – Senior Boys Under 69 kg
- Gold:** Ryan Harding – Senior Boys Under 76 kg

Two MAGS students represented New Zealand at the Australian Wrestling National Championships in Melbourne in June.

Max Shallard won silver in the U20 61kg category, while Ryan Harding also had a good tournament at the Melbourne State Sport Centre, coming fourth in the U17 80kg category.



# ASB MAGS FARM

The ASB MAGS Farm has been quietly ticking along with new facilities having been developed for our hens. If we put another henhouse in, we could effectively house up to 100 layers.

September planting of a low lavender hedge will take place up the side of the hen facility. This will offer shelter, be a great food source for bees, and be far more aesthetically pleasing up the drive than the current old fence.

I have been working on putting an irrigation system in to the old hydroponics shed and we will now be able to utilise this more for growing out-of-season and rare/heritage types of plants.

We have had the ACES students on farm doing various projects. As a result, we have some great signage around the farm cleverly crafted by the ACES students.

The first round of lambing has just finished with a 200% lambing percentage. We have another round of lambing due over late August through to end of September with quads pregnancy scanned in some ewes! The aim is for ram lambs to hit the Xmas lamb market offering income for the farm.

The ewes and rams have all been shorn with some students coming along to have a go at shearing and also witness the pregnancy scanning of the ewes and pre-lambing vaccinations.

Our first couple of ewes are in and milking and there are no problems with the new milking shed and machinery. As lambs are weaned, more ewes will come on board.

The milk has been used to make soaps and lotions which are really nice products. It is hoped to involve non Ag students to design labelling and brand names for our products along with marketing ideas.

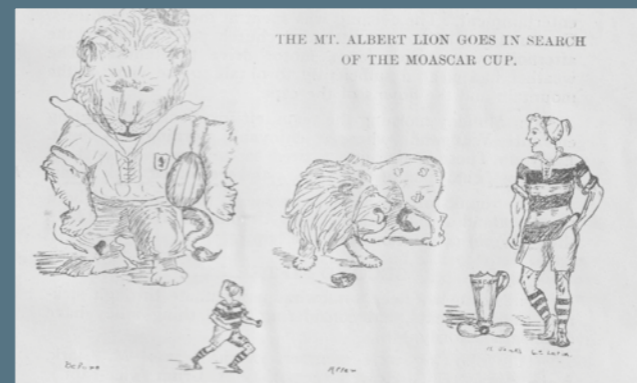
There have been issues with major water leaks due to an aging pipeline and old troughs. This will be addressed in the summer when new troughs can be correctly bedded down and balanced. In the meantime, leaky lines are cut off as they are found.

Calves are growing well and are now well weaned and being grown for sale in January/February.

August will see the first round of preparation for sunflower planting.

**Deb Crump**  
Farm Manager





# FROM THE ARCHIVES:

# MAGS 100 YEARS AGO

In 1924, the school's third year, the roll was 373 at the beginning of Term 2 (May 26).

For the first time in its history, the school boasted a Form 6A (now Year 13).

The main block (the only block) ended at what are now the International Office on the ground floor and room B8. The north wing was not extended until 1930. Construction on the hall had not begun and most of the current fields were gorse-covered wasteland. Playing fields were slowly being developed where the pool carpark is now situated and much of this work was carried out by the students.

In sport, the school had a very successful year, winning the 1st XV Rugby competition in just its third year and coming second in the 1st XI Cricket competition. For the first time the school offered Football as a sport. There was no inter-school competition but the four school teams competed with mixed success in various club competitions. Late in September, the 1st XV travelled to New Plymouth to challenge for the Moascar Cup for the first time. New Plymouth Boys' High School won 12-3. It was not until 1975 that the school managed to gain this prestigious trophy.

Towards the end of the year the Old Boys' Association was founded for former students to get together. (This Association is now known as the Albertians Association and former students are encouraged to enjoy their own association.)

One of the first events organised by

the association was a 'Picture Evening' held at the Lyric Theatre in Symonds Street to raise funds to buy caps for the 1st XV. Another fundraiser was the school concert. Most of the school was involved with a variety of performances and this tradition continued until 1966. Physical Education involved the whole school for fifteen minutes, four days a week and every Wednesday the school had an hour of military drill. The lack of field space made both of these extremely difficult.

### SOME FAMOUS ALUMNI

A number of students from 1924 went on to make their names in various areas:

Vic Butler was a prefect and a member of the 1st XV and 1st XI Cricket. He was the school's first All Black, taught at the school from 1930 to 1932 and in 1953 became the foundation headmaster at Mount Roskill Grammar School.

Otto Hintz joined the New Zealand Herald as a reporter and was the editor from 1958 to 1970.

G.L. (Lindsay) Weir was a member of the 1st XI Cricket and was also a member of the 1st XV. He was head prefect in 1926 and represented New Zealand in cricket from 1930 to 1937. He taught at the school from 1938 until 1979 but also spent some time serving overseas during the war.

Sidney Moses played for the 1st XV. He had considerable success in motor-cycle racing, billiards and snooker and was also



responsible for organising the introduction of decimal currency in 1967.

Reg Harrop was a prefect and a member of the 1st XV. He was president of the Old Boys' Association in 1928 and 1929. His grandson is Patrick Drumm, the current Headmaster of Mount Albert Grammar School.

### THE STAFF

Besides the headmaster, there were 14 teachers, many of whom had long careers at the school.

A number of them are still remembered in our annual prizegivings. The F.W. Gamble Cup for the Best All Round Boy in Year 13 is named for the first headmaster. Other teachers still remembered with awards

are H.L Calder (History), G.S. Coldham (Languages), R.B. Harvey (Commerce), J.H. Harvey (English), H.L. Towers (Mathematics) and C.P. Worley (Chemistry).

Another award that dates from 1924 is the Fred Free Prize for Reading. This was donated by the parents of Fred Free, a student of the school who died in a tragic accident at the end of 1923.

Footnote: As noted, the 1st XV won the competition in 1924. They also won it 50 years later in 1974 (though they had won it many times in the intervening years). No pressure on the 2024 team!

**Greg Cave**  
Assistant Archivist

# MAGS 50 YEARS AGO



In New Zealand, 1974 is remembered for the Christchurch Commonwealth Games ("The Friendly Games") and the introduction of colour television.

The New Zealand Cricket team defeated Australia for the first time and the All Blacks had a short unbeaten tour of England, Ireland and Wales. The year was marred by the death of the Prime Minister, Norman Kirk, in August.

The nature of Mount Albert Grammar was changing slowly in 1974. Classes were no longer called 3A, 3B etc. but in the junior school, at least, classes were still streamed rigidly and students were promoted or demoted according to their performance in the school exams.

For several years Form Seven students had been allowed to wear mufti, and photographs from that year show that long hair styles were becoming the norm. Most teachers still called their students by their surnames but a small number were happy to use given names and within a few years this was the norm for most teachers. Corporal punishment was still a feature of school life though its use was diminishing as pressure for it to be banned increased.

The arrival of large numbers of immigrants from the Pacific Islands changed the ethnic makeup of the school

as well. Ten years earlier in 1964, Sam Ieriko had been the Deputy Head Prefect and in 1974 the school selected its first Pasifika Head Prefect – Fred Ah Kuoi. Fred was an outstanding sportsman and starred in the 1st XV from 1972 to 1974. He also captained the rugby league team, which won the annual tournament held towards the end of the winter sports season. Fred's four younger brothers also attended the school and the Ah Kuoi family has maintained its close contact with the school ever since.

The school had success in sport. In Football, one team won the championship, one was runner-up and a third second in zone. Cricket produced two teams which won their championships and one runner-up. Rugby was the most successful sport with the 1st XV winning the championship for the second year in a row and two other teams were runners-up. For the first time there was a competition for students from the third and fourth form (years 9 and 10) which had no weight restriction. This competition was soon to become the Under 15 Colts competition. The Mount Albert team was undefeated over 10 games.

The school roll in 1974 was 1169 and most classes had more than 30 students. A number had as many as 38. The headmaster was Maurice Hall and

his deputy was Bill Heron. There were 57 teachers on the staff, which included for the first time a Guidance Counsellor. The non-teaching staff numbered eight.

A smaller roll required fewer buildings. The current library block was built in 1977. On this site in 1974 was an old wooden building housing a prefects' room, the tuck shop and a covered area for students to shelter. The library was on the second floor next to what is now the conference room. The learning support centre was the gymnasium and it was not until 1984 that a full-sized gymnasium was open. Where the pool carpark is now was the tennis courts, and the playing fields were much more extensive and would remain so until the increase in roll that started just before the new millennium.

The hall was still big enough to accommodate the whole school and each day began with an assembly.

There were seven periods every day and period changes were signalled by the ringing of the old school bell, which is still in the quadrangle.

**Greg Cave**  
Assistant Archivist

# KEY DATES 2024

## TERM 3

**22 July**  
*Monday*  
Start of Term 3

**30 July**  
*Tuesday*  
Careers Expo

**2-4 August**  
*Friday-Sunday*  
MAGS Art Show

**15 & 16 August**  
*Thursday & Friday*  
Arts and Culture Photos

**2-8 September**  
*Monday-Sunday*  
Winter Tournament Week

**26 September**  
*Thursday*  
Service Lions Assembly  
Last day of classes for Term 3

**27 September**  
*Friday*  
Staff Only Day  
End of Term 3

## TERM 4

**14 October**  
*Monday*  
Start of Term 4

**17 October**  
*Thursday*  
Media Studies Film Night

**24 October**  
*Thursday*  
Sports Awards Dinner

**25 October**  
*Friday*  
Arts Awards Dinner

**27 October**  
*Monday*  
Labour Day

**1 November**  
*Friday*  
School Leavers Ball

**5 November**  
*Tuesday*  
NCEA Exams Commence

**29 November**  
*Friday*  
NCEA Exams End

**3 December**  
*Tuesday*  
Junior Prizegivings  
Last day of classes for Term 4

## 2025 TERM DATES

**24 January**  
*Friday*  
Senior Course Confirmation  
(10.30am-12pm)

**27 January**  
*Monday*  
Auckland Anniversary holiday

## TERM 1

**30 January**  
*Thursday*  
Year 9 students only start school

**31 January**  
*Friday*  
Full school in

**6 February**  
*Thursday*  
Waitangi Day holiday

**10 April**  
*Thursday*  
Last day of classes for Term 1

**11 April**  
*Friday*  
Staff Only Administration Day  
End of Term 1

**April 18**  
*Friday*  
Good Friday

**April 21**  
*Monday*  
Easter Monday

**25 April**  
*Thursday*  
Anzac Day

## TERM 2

**28 April**  
*Monday*  
Start of Term 2

**2 June**  
*Monday*  
King's Birthday holiday

**20 June**  
*Friday*  
Matariki holiday

**26 June**  
*Thursday*  
Last day of classes for Term 2

**27 June**  
*Friday*  
Staff Only Administration Day  
End of Term 2

## TERM 3

**14 July**  
*Monday*  
Start of Term 3

**18 September**  
*Thursday*  
Last day of classes for Term 3

**19 September**  
*Friday*  
Staff Only Administration Day  
End of Term 3

## TERM 4

**6 October**  
*Monday*  
Start of Term 4

**27 October**  
*Monday*  
Labour Day holiday

**3 December**  
*Wednesday*  
Junior Prize-givings:  
YR 10 – 9.30 AM then dismissed for year  
YR 9 – 12.30 AM then dismissed for year

**4 December**  
*Thursday*  
Staff Only Administration Day

**5 December**  
*Friday*  
Staff Only Administration Day  
End of Term 4

## 2025 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

**27 January**  
*Monday*  
Auckland Anniversary Day

**6 February**  
*Thursday*  
Waitangi Day

**18 April**  
*Friday*  
Good Friday

**21 April**  
*Monday*  
Easter Monday

**25 April**  
*Friday*  
Anzac Day

**2 June**  
*Monday*  
King's Birthday

**20 June**  
*Friday*  
Matariki

**27 October**  
*Monday*  
Labour Day



Please refer to our website [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz) for the full Calendar, including all sporting events.



# GREAT SMILES START HERE!

..... X .....



**At All Smiles Dental we understand the confidence that comes with having straight teeth.**

**With Invisalign, the discreet clear aligners can give you confidence during treatment.**



**ALL SMILES**  
DENTAL

[www.allsmiles.co.nz](http://www.allsmiles.co.nz)

**Call us to book an Orthodontic consultation 0800 ALL SMILES**

..... X .....

**We also offer free dental care for under 18 year olds, with the Government Dental Benefits Scheme.**