

Week 7, Term 2, June 15, 2018 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Three-Way Conferencing

This week the school embarked on a new initiative designed to improve the quality of reporting to parents. All Year 11 and 12 students and their parents were involved in a Three-Way Conference with Academic Mentors.

These 15-minute meetings by appointment allow a greater depth of

discussion and feedback around the academic pathway being followed by students.

Preparation prior to the Conference ensures that it is a worthwhile process. Mentors collate information from subject teachers allowing discussion to retain an academic focus based on good evidence and information. Students are also required to lead aspects of the meeting, particularly regarding reviewing and resetting their academic goals for the remainder of the year.

The school is also hoping that we can be better hosts of parents through this approach and make the verbal reporting process a better experience for all.

We were encouraged by the high engagement of both parents and students in the Conferencing with a 90 per cent turnout over both Year 11 and 12.

Three-Way Conferencing is a core part of the Academic Mentoring programme at MAGS. It is envisaged that these conferences will eventually replace the traditional Parent Interview Evenings across the school.

Thank you again to all involved in supporting this initiative aimed at improving the learning of MAGS students.

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm





Click here for the 2018 Calendar

Thursday, 21 June Parent-Daughter Breakfast, MAGS, 7am.

International Food and Cultural Evening, MAGS Hall, 6pm

Friday, 22 June

MAGS Quiz Night, MAGS Hall, 6pm (see details below)





Photo Essay Year 9 Football Boys v Westlake Boys HIgh <u>Click here</u>

Fixtures and results Click here

Registration and trials for summer and winter sports <u>Click here</u>

Board Show just the business



All the ingredients came together last night to make the Board Show and Year 11 Business Market Evening a huge success: inspired art works, a great selection of food and drink, a live jazz band and clear weather.

Year 11, 12 & 13 Visual Art students displayed their talents in art, design and photography while Year 11 Business students set up more than 20 stalls in and around E Block selling food and drinks for staff, students, friends and family that flocked to the evening.



Musicians Billy McColl, Denzel Kelemete and Amitai Aharon provided the jazz backdrop to an evening that saw the classrooms and hallways of E Block opened up for the Board Show. The Year 11 Business Studies students were kept busy on the night as part of a project that sees businesses formed, leadership roles taken and business plans developed. For these Year 11 students, selling to parents was a new challenge after selling solely to their peers as Year 10s at last year's Market Day.

HoD Visual Arts Bryn Corkery, said "Students took a leadership role in the organisation of the event, which was really encouraging to see. The relaxed and welcoming atmosphere reinforced the positive community spirit that our students have.

"The show illustrated the depth in creative talent we have at this school. Visitors were impressed by the wide variety of ideas on display."

For more photos from the evening, click here

Moon Stars win national award again



For the second year running the Moon Stars have won Best Performance of an Original Work at the National Chamber Music Contest.

Composer Emma Moon's Balkan Dance piece was created to complement the skill set of the players in the group, who competed at the Raye Freedman Centre in Epsom. It follows on from Emma and the group's success with Serbian Dance in the same competition last year. The musicians so enjoyed working on that piece last year that they asked her to compose something in a similar style with strong and irregular Balkan rhythms.

HoD Music Milica Moon said, "This comes to Emma naturally, since she is ³/₄ Serbian. She has composed this for the specific skills of the players, and students have enjoyed working on this every morning from 7am until the beginning of school.

"They have become a close group of friends, too. One comment from some musicians in the audience was that they are the only group where everyone looked so happy and unstressed, and that they enjoyed playing music together."

The Moon Stars are: Gary He – 1st Violin, Emma Moon – 1st Violin, Grace Duan – 2nd Violin, Kate Ploeg – Viola, Anvilly Huang – Cello, Lars Landicho – Double Bass, Amitai Aharon -Percussion, Stefan Moon – Percussion.

MAGS' Chamber Orchestra will also perform Balkan Dance at the KBB Music Festival in August.

ARTS EVENTS COMING UP IN TERM 2:

From Monday, 25 June Visual Art Winter Workshops. For the full schedule, click <u>here</u>

Tuesday & Wednesday, 26 & 27 June Year 12 Drama Production, MAGS, 7pm.

Tuesday, 3 July Annual Music Concert, Raye Freedman Centre, Epsom, 7pm.

Parent-Child breakfast bookings still open



Bookings are still open for the Parent-Child breakfasts being held this month. Bernice Mene and Pio Terei will be the guest speakers for the Parent-Daughter and Parent-Son breakfasts respectively. Ms Mene is a former Silver Ferns captain and netball commentator who has also taught at MAGS in the past and helped set up the Netball Academy. She will speak at

the Parent-Daughter Breakfast



for Year 9 & 13 students on Thursday, June 21.

Entertainer and performer Pio Terei is also a presenter and spokepserson for The Parenting Place, which develops education programmes for parents and families. He will speak at the Inaugural



Parent-Son Breakfast for Year 9 & 13 students on Thursday, June 28.

Both events have been kindly sponsored by Anne Duncan Real Estate and will be held at MAGS in the Maurice Hall Atrium, with tickets \$40 for one student and one adult.

An email with details about payment options should have been sent out to parents of Year 9 & 13 students. For further inquiries, email Martin Sykes <u>msykes@mags.school.nz</u>

The Wonder Cats a hit at Smokefreerockquest



The Wonder Cats have won the People's Choice Award at the Auckland Central Finals of the Smokefreerockquest, meaning they can now make a bid for the national finals. On Saturday night at Auckland Girls Grammar, the band made up of MAGS students Denzel Kelemete, Billy McColl, Amitai Aharon and Viliami Toafa Moli along with Ethan Broughton (from Auckland Grammar) competed against 14 other acts.

They had seven minutes to do two songs maximum but decided to warm the crowd up with a funky James Brown-style intro to their indie rock song *Running* that segued into a jamming outro.

Billy and Denzel said they were blown away by the crowd's enthusiastic reaction to their



performance, especially as the band had only been together for six months. Winning the People's Choice Award, which is decided by text and online voting, means The Wonder Cats can now submit an entry for the National Final.

Denzel said this takes the form of a video of a live performance of four songs that is then judged. These entries from around the country are then whittled down to a Top 30 that is put in front of a judging panel that chooses nine bands and solo/duos to compete in the final.

The Top 30 should be announced at the end of July, with the date for the National Final yet to be announced.

To see The Wonder Cats interviewed as part of the Auckland Central Finals, click here



Students put in more native trees

Last Sunday, a group of 30 Year 13 students travelled by ferry out to Motutapu Island with Mr Ashby, Mr Booker and Mrs Beel to contribute to the massive restoration project taking place there. This was the second of four trips in 2018 and was set aside at the request of the Year 13s who wanted to make sure that they contributed to the project before they depart from MAGS at the end of the year.

Mr Ashby said, "A special thank you to Catherine Butler who came up with the idea and ensured we had the numbers to make it happen."

Blessed with fine weather for planting (overcast, cool and no wind) the group managed to plant more than 900 pioneer species of native plant.

"The rate at which the planting was done was extraordinary ... we literally ran out of trees to plant with half an hour to spare."

Mr Ashby said, "It was a great example of the senior students leading by example. They now have a permanent connection to this 'Treasure Island' and can hold their heads high that they have contributed to a massive project that is making a real difference."

If your son/daughter would like to be a part of future planting days (5 August or 2 September), please contact the Environment Club Co-ordinator, Michael Ashby, at <u>mashby@mags.school.nz</u>

Feasting on knowledge

Next month, Shalin Shah will be heading to Brisbane for FEAST (Future Experiences in Agriculture, Science and Technology) after being selected for one of the Royal Society's International Science Opportunities.



The programme offers a variety of science experiences around the world but being accepted for them is a challenge.

As HoD Physics Michael Ashby says, "We've been trying for years to get a student on one of these, and we've had some very strong candidates." Year 13 student Shalin is one of seven students from around New Zealand attending FEAST, and also qualifies for a Talented School Students Travel Award that pays 70 per cent of his travel costs. FEAST is a five-day residential programme at the University of Queensland designed to inspire and inform high school students about the range of exciting and rewarding science careers in the agriculture, animal, plant and food sectors.

Shalin, who is captain of the school's robotics group, plans to study aerospace engineering but says he is grateful for any opportunities in Science. Recently, he was part of the MAGS senior team that came second at the 2018 North Island Secondary Schools Science Bowl Tournament.



Programme culminates with Okura planting

Last week, Agriculture & Horticulture teacher Richard Fullerton and Environment Club leader Michael Ashby led a team of Year 10 Agriculture students planting trees at Okura. This was the culmination of work by the students under the Trees for Survival programme, where they plant and pot on seedlings at school then ultimately plant the young trees out on farmland. The plantings serve to prevent erosion, trap sediment and prevent run off of phosphorus and E. coli into waterways. They also provide corridors for native birds to travel between one area of bush and another. It is all part of landowners working to preserve New Zealand's natural environment and crucial green image.

On Thursday, June 7, the weather was beautiful and the students enjoyed their day, including the

morning tea and barbecue supplied by the landowners.

Several of the students are members of the Environment Club and all are looking forward to continuing their positive contribution to the management of the land.

Inspirational art trip





Year 10 visual art students finished a busy and creative semester with the annual trip to the Auckland Art Gallery. Students experienced some of the best art on public display in New Zealand.

A highlight for many was seeing the Gottfried Lindauer 'Maori Portraits' and the works of international contemporary art.

Students engaged with the artworks with enthusiasm and curiosity.

The junior art coordinator, Ms André Sampson, would like to thank the Year 10 teachers and parents who joined us on the day.

Update from the Archives

Our Archivist Brian Murphy has unearthed more gems that shine a light on the rich history of Mount Albert Grammar School. Mr Murphy's latest work, which has been added to our website, includes a fascinating look at J.A.W. Bennett and the School Hymn, originally written as a poem and later set to music. He also looks at Albertian sportswomen, the makeover of the Quad, and the subject of Technology over the years. And there have been more additions to the ongoing project: A History of the School in 100

Objects. One of them is the beautifully illustrated Science Notebook of Warren Jorey from 1944/45 (at right).

To take a wander through the school archives, click \underline{here}



Countdown to Space Camp 2019



There are still a few places available for Space Camp 2019. Students should pick up an expression of interest form for this exciting experience from Ms Slabbert or email her at <u>sslabbert@mags.school.nz</u> Space Camp takes place in July next year at the US Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Participants will spend five days doing simulated missions, team building and physical and mental challenges.

After the serious business of Space Camp, students will spend a few days at theme parks in Florida.

To find out more about Space Camp 2019, click here

Rapid learning for kayakers



To conclude the Kayaking Unit for Year 10 Outdoor Education, each class recently visited Vector Wero Whitewater Park in Manukau.

This enabled students to practise and develop kayaking skills and reinforce concepts introduced in the classroom. Once geared up in a wetsuit, booties, lifejacket and helmet, the students went through different paddle strokes on the lake, ahead of negotiating eddy lines at the river exit. Then it was time to paddle the Grade 2 Tamariki River. This man-made river is entered from a conveyor belt and includes small drops, waves and plenty of eddies.

Sports update

Three MAGS fencers off to UK with NZ team



Three MAGS students will travel to England next month as part of the 21-strong NZ team taking part in the Cadet (Under 17) and Junior (Under20) Commonwealth Fencing Championship. Amey Smith, above right, is one of three fencers to represent NZ in the Girls Cadet Epee individual and team events and will be one of four fencers to represent NZ in the Womens Junior Epee individual and team events.

Charlie Bioletti and James Butler make up two of the three-strong NZ Boys Cadet Epee group competing in the individual and team events.

Albertian Matthew Valkenberg has been selected as the reserve for the NZ Mens' Junior Epee individual and team events. He won't travel unless there is an injury prior to departure.

Results this week

On Monday, the Rugby Girls 10s racked up another win at home, coming out on top of One Tree Hill College 15-10 in terrible conditions.

At around the same time, the Football Girls 1st XI were completing a convincing 3-0 win over St Cuthbert's on MAGS 1.

The Rugby League 1st XIII lost 4-24 to Southern Cross at MAGS on Wednesday.

Yesterday, the Hockey Girls 1st XI came away with a 7-3 win against Avondale College 1st XI, having beaten them previously.

MAGS started strongly, going 3-0 up through Shivani Unka, Milly Bayfield and Chantel Young but clocked off a bit before halftime to allow Avondale back into the game with a goal.

That 3-1 halftime lead soon evaporated as Avondale scored twice, before MAGS regrouped and came back with four unanswered goals.

Captain Maisy Simpson led the charge with two amazing reverse shots for goals, before Grace Twigley and Maisy Simpson rounded out the scoring.

At MAGS yesterday, the Lacrosse Girls Premiers had a hard-fought 10-6 victory over Westlake Girls High.

For full results and fixtures, click here



Premier games this weekend



Both Premier Basketball teams go into tonight's games at MAGS after big wins earlier in the week. The Girls, who play Auckland Girls Grammar at 6pm, won 80-52 over St Mary's on Monday. You can see a photo essay from that game <u>here</u>

The Boys, who play Auckland Grammar at 7.30pm, beat St Peter's 71-47 on Monday. You can see a photo essay from that game <u>here</u>

Our Netball Premiers play St Cuthbert's tomorrow at 11.30am at the Auckland Netball Centre.

The Football Boys 1st XI play St Peter's College at noon tomorrow on MAGS 1.

The Rugby 1st XV are playing away again tomorrow, to Liston College at 2.30pm.

Sports trials and registrations



Students are encouraged to register for sports teams and trials taking place in Term 2.

General notices



The annual MAGS Quiz Night will be held on Friday, 22 June.

Make up a team and come along to enjoy a night of trivia and fun. Teams can have a maximum of eight people. The event will run from 6pm-9.30pm in the MAGS hall, with pizza and drinks available for sale on the night. A variety of spot prizes are up for grabs along with prizes for the winning

team, best dressed team and individual.

Pre-book tickets at the Finance Office for \$10 per person, or book a table of eight for only \$60. All funds raised will be going towards Ebenezer Community School in Delhi.





Copyright © 2018 Mount Albert Grammar School, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>