

2016 Sports Highlights

Term 1 2016

The proverb "If you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to go far, walk with others" has been adopted by MaP sports. The number of teams has increased; participation has risen. The number of local and international tournaments each team participates in has also increased. This can be seen from the overall achievements in awards attained: Fifteen Gold, six Silver, and one Bronze. In a nutshell, 2016 was a year of abundance and jubilation.

International Events:

American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ) Tournament:

Term One started with MaP's Boys and Girls basketball teams participating in an annual tournament in Johannesburg at AISJ.

Results: U19 Boys - Made it to the quarterfinals (9/18); U19 Girls - Made it to quarterfinals (10/18), U16 Boys - Made it to semi-finals, U16 Girls - Made it quarterfinals (11/18).

African Leadership Academy (ALA), Lebone and MaP Derby:

MaP participated in this annual derby for three schools, which took place in Johannesburg at ALA. Teams played three main sports: Basketball, Football and Chess for both genders. With passion and love for sport, MaP came out victorious, winning 1st place and coming home with the Annual Floating trophy.

International School of South Africa (ISSA) Tournaments:

ISSA, in Mafikeng, welcomed MaP to their home grounds for a friendly Athletics and Swimming Derby. All students, especially those who were travelling for the first time, enjoyed the Derby.

Furthermore, the Cricket team participated in a 20/20 U19 Cricket event. There were six schools in total; MaP come fourth overall. Well done the team!

2016 Sports Highlights

Local Events:

Inter-House Results:

Athletics

This year's event was the best ever because it was compulsory for all students. All events had athletes, which resulted in the competitions being spectacular.

Results: Dominating with a large margin was K House with 854 Points. L house finished in second position with 721 points, followed by the J house with 714 points. In Last place was M house, with 687 points. Exciting and thrilling events!

Swimming:

In the swimming competition, J house strived to get first place and sat proudly with 424 points. In second place was the K house, with a well-deserved 410 points. Coming in third place was L house with 312 points and in fourth place was M house, with 232 points! Congratulations to all the swimmers for a job well done.

Independent Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSSA) - Inter-Schools Competitions (13 schools).

Cricket: For a second year running, MaP's team worked very hard, defending its title for 1st place in the ISSSA Competitions!

Chess: The Chess team is also to be congratulated, as they fought hard to defend their Championship. As usual, they managed to do just that, getting first position again.

Swimming: The MaP team, made up of students who swam two or three years above their normal age, worked extra hard to try push for 1st position. The team was short of two hundredth of a second to get first place, in a hair raising final that made everyone crowd the pool deck at John Mackenzie School. Congratulations to this dynamic team led by Kitso Matija L6K and Amantle Mogare 5K. Special thanks to Coach Mbikiwa, Teacher Aids Tsaone Magetse, Dolnald Ntamo and Malaika Williams for officiating at the gala.

Athletics: Overall, MaP got fifth position in this year's event, after coming second in the first leg of Field events. Thanks to Mr Otiende, Mr Lekhutlile and all the students who participated in the events. Mildred Magorimbo, the captain of the Athletics teams, must be commendable for all her hard work.

2016 Sports Highlights

TERM 2- 2016

The second term is usually the busiest of any year and 2016 proved no different. Maru-a-Pula took part in a number of competitions in various disciplines, the highlights being the BISA National Championships, the ISSSA tournaments, the Maru-a-Pula Mabonga tournament and the Derby between the three schools of Waterford (Swaziland), ISSA (International School of South Africa from Mafikeng) and Maru-a-Pula.

Our school is part of the Botswana Integrated Schools Association (BISA), which includes all the public junior and senior secondary schools, in Botswana. This therefore allows Maru-a-Pula to take part in the annual national championships held in different venues of the country.

This year, this event was held in Gaborone and Maru-a-Pula entered four basketball teams and two football teams – one girls' team and one boys' team.

Our U19 Basketball Boys team proved why they are the national champions, successfully defending their title for the second year running. On the other hand, the U19 Girls Basketball team came fifth in the country. The U17 Boys Basketball team scooped the first position trophy, having been third last year. The Girls U17 Basketball team fought hard for a very good fourth place finish at the National Finals.

In football, the U19 Boys and Girls Football teams ended up in fourth and third positions respectively at the BISA Zonal Competitions, and were hence unable to secure a spot at the Finals. Something good came out of all this. Obakeng Rapula (3J) was scouted and selected for the Botswana U17 National team in which he was made vice-captain. This team played in the AFCON U17 qualifiers.

The cherry on the cake was the privilege of having seven students (four boys, three girls) being selected for the Botswana U17 Basketball National Team to participate in the important COSSASA regional competitions that will take place between 22nd and 28th August 2016 in Gaborone. These students are Ahsante Puso 4, Tumelo Bowie 4M, Leitse Mtonga 4L, Iman Hosseini 4M, Tapiwa Malobela 2M, Lesedi Serema 5L and Katlego Tlale 3L.

Maru-a-Pula also took part in the Independent Southern Schools Sports Association (ISSSA) competitions, providing fierce competition for all its opponents. Maru-a-Pula was the school to beat, garnering nine first positions in the competition. The winning teams with gold medals and trophies were; U14 Basketball Boys, U16 Basketball Girls, U19 Basketball Girls, U14 Netball Girls, U19 Netball Girls, U14 Football Boys, U19 Football Boys, U19 Rugby Girls and the U19 Rugby Boys. Second position with silver medals is U16 Basketball Boys team while the U16 Netball team got fourth position. The competitions, which were

2016 Sports Highlights

held at Maru-a-Pula, Rainbow and Westwood, proved to be a huge success, especially for Maru-a-Pula.

It must be noted that the U19 Netball team, under the guidance of Ms Hirschfeld has never been defeated since the inception of ISSSA. This also goes for the Girls Rugby team, which went on to win the ISSSA tournament, third season in a row since the sport was introduced to ISSSA in 2013. The girls qualified to play in the BISA national finals, but sadly the players were too young so they had to forfeit. The rugby girls had an amazing season, introducing a lot of new players. Sadly the team had to say goodbye to Ami Burton (U6) who was with the team for seven years - her entire school career at MaP.

The Boys U19 teams, through the guidance of co-ordinator Mr Tsimako and coach Rashid, brought the gold cup home after so many years of yearning. The team has been preparing for it since they were in Form 1. They are so pleased to have achieved their goal.

Maru-a-Pula hosted this year's bi-annual Mabonga Basketball Tournament, which brought various teams from across the country to compete. This competition is in honour of Sailas Mabonga, a Maru-a-Pula teacher who pioneered basketball in this school. The competition was a tough one with many games ending with a goal difference of one or two points. In the end, the Maru-a-Pula teams did not disappoint, obtaining podium finishes for both sexes. The U19 Boys team got silver medals whereas the U19 Girls team got bronze medals.

Another highlight of the term was the Derby. The Maru-a-Pula Derby is an international competition where Maru-a-Pula, International School of South Africa (ISSA) and Waterford Kamhlaba School (Swaziland) converge to participate and compete in various sporting codes. The schools were neck and neck in terms of points for most of the tournament, but in the end, Maru-a-Pula prevailed over Waterford, 32 points – 31 points on aggregate, to become the champions. ISSA came in at third with 17 points.

2016 Sports Highlights

TERM 3

Basketball:

This term kick off with MaP hosting the 3rd Debswana-MaP Re Ba Bona Ha Basketball Invitation tournament, which featured a number of government and private schools from around Gaborone. Our U14 boys put up a good fight, scooping the gold medals, while the girls came fifth. A week later, four of our U14 and U16 teams went to the ISSA Junior Basketball invitational tournament Mafikeng, South Africa. This year's event had thirty-two teams. Our U14 team, coached by our very own talented Mr Dambe, managed to get second position overall.

Cricket:

The team participated in an U16 International Pro-10 Cricket tournament at John Mckenzie School in Francistown. This event had teams from Zimbabwe, South Africa and schools from around Botswana. MaP managed to come 4th out of eight schools and won the Wheels Trophy after seven years of trying. MaP then hosted the ISSSA tournament, but the young team could not defend its championship of the first term, coming 4th. A special thanks to the two brilliant coaches, Mr Manyoni and Mr Schmidt, for encouraging the players.

Girls Football:

This team was a force to be reckoned with from outset! They never conceded a goal throughout the league games - even at the ISSSA tournament. Some of the results in the league included beating GIS by 17 goals to 0! With such a record, the girls deserve their title of champions at ISSSA, for the 3rd year in a row since the introduction of this sport.

The contribution of the following people cannot be overlooked: captain Donna Simon (4M), top scorer Sebaga Rabashwa (3K), co-ordinator Mr Tsimako and Mr Mbikiwa. Their input has made this team to be champions.

Softball:

What gallant teams they have been! Through the tough coaching style of Ms Kelly Ditsele, Coach Motsuma and our very own super-supporter parent, Ms Desai, the teams excelled on the field during the league games and tournament getting 1st (boys) and 2nd (girls) positions.

One of the motivating factor for our teams a big donation of P17.000.00 worth of four sets of kit by an anonymous sponsor who has been so generous to our teams.

2016 Sports Highlights

ISSA Form 1 Derby

Here's F1 student Safreen Khan's report on the final sports event of the year:

'On Friday the 4th of November 2016, 65 Form 1s, along with Ms Shamabobo, Ms Bowe, Mr Basele, Coach Ndiye and TA Phenyoy, departed for the annual Form 1 Derby at the International School of South Africa.

The main purpose of this Derby was to try new things and, most of all, to have fun! Despite the rain, our game spirit was high. With adrenaline continuously pumping through our blood, we won both of our basketball matches and, despite being first-time volleyball players, we lost proudly by only one point. The netball girls played with legendary skill and beat ISSA by 19 points.

Everyone was well dressed that night for the disco, where we made new friends and learnt new dance moves. Before breakfast the next morning, we walked around the perimeter of ISSA with our new companions.

We arrived home early Sunday afternoon after a fantastic trip spent with great hosts.'

CONCLUSION

Hats off to all the people that have made 2016 a memorable year with the many successes, including two MaP alumni who swam in the Rio Olympics, Naomi Ruele and David Van Der Colff. 'If you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to go far, walk with others.' May 2017 bring as much joy, success and satisfaction as we have had in 2016!