

## 2017 Report from Andrew Taylor, MaP Principal

Earlier this year, the Gaborone dam overflowed for the first time in 17 years. It's been that kind of year at MaP. Our campus has overflowed with visitors, energy and creativity in 2017. Here are my top ten highlights:

**1. Enrolment:** We set a new record for school enrolment by starting 2016 with 767 students. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Form enrolment has grown by 64% in the last five years. In 2012 our 6<sup>th</sup> Form was just 110 students; now it's 180 students. Even 5 full years at MaP is not enough!

**2. Academic Results:** MaP received news of outstanding Cambridge 2016 results at the A-Level and IGCSE. 58.5% of grades awarded in the A-Level exams were an A\* or A. 21% of these grades were A\*s; a remarkable achievement. A record 23 students gained at least 3 As at A-Level in the 2016 Cambridge exams. 60 IGCSE students (out of 116 candidates) earned at least 5 A\*s & As.

**3. IQAA:** It sounded a bit daunting: MaP's first-ever evaluation by an outside body, in this instance, the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA). Online anonymous surveys of parents, students and teachers were undertaken. Focus groups were convened. All teachers were observed. A final report was compiled. At the end of it all, it was gratifying to read these words from our IQAA "inspector": "While there is a great deal of which to be proud, Maru-a-Pula does not come across as a pretentious school. I see this as clear evidence of its values in action."

**4. University Placement:** "Going Places? Start Here." That's what our billboard says and it's never been more true than in 2017. MaP continues to be one of Africa's best at placing students in the world's top universities: In 2017, more A-Level students than ever before gained entry into top tier universities worldwide. Highlight #5 is one of many shining examples. Read on.

**5. Nayana Iyer's Letter:** Nayana has just started at Imperial College London, which is ranked #8 in the world. Four MaP students currently attend Imperial. Nayana wrote a wonderful note to update her MaP teachers. Some excerpts:

*Just thought I'd drop a quick update as to how things are going...*

*MaP has definitely done a lot to help us prepare for university life on the whole. It's quite evident with our readiness to join clubs and societies which can obviously be attributed to the SPE program. It's also evident in how easily I felt I could adapt to the extremely multicultural environment as opposed some of the other students here who were less informed on different cultures...*

*Another interesting aspect is the 'Imperial Horizons' course which allows you to take a subject, other than your line of study, for a couple of terms. I've taken French and it's quite nice to get away from the science for a bit and improve a language. Again, I have a newfound appreciation for how thorough MaP's French department are! 3 years out of practice yet I could pick up almost where we left off...*

*However, all this being said, the hardest part of uni is definitely the domestic aspect for me! I have never realised how high-maintenance we are. This is something I feel we are quite unprepared for coming out of Botswana. Cooking thrice a day, washing the dishes after (ugh), cleaning your room, doing laundry, buying groceries, sorting through bills and post... These are all incredibly time-consuming albeit necessary activities. This is where I struggled and have finally found a schedule of sorts to work around. One step closer to becoming a domestic goddess I guess!*

*I cannot wait to visit everyone back home though, nor can I wait to get back to the heat and sunlight!*

*Nayayna*

**6. Juilliard & Harvard Students Return:** For two weeks in June, MaP hosted five Juilliard dancers and actors: Amanda Bouza, Hannah Park, Myles Hunter, Juliette Kenn de Balthazy and Darryl Gene Daughtry Jr. Juilliard students have visited MaP thrice before, in 2010, 2011 and 2016. This year they inspired an impressive 138 performers, including MaP students and local artists, to take part in a dance and theatre showcase held in late June. And then there's the awesome work of "the Harvards", who join our students every June and July. This year we enjoyed the impact and company of Genevieve le Fevre, Riqui He, Haley Langan and Brian Lai who tutored, coached and mentored dozens of MaP students for eight weeks.

**7. Launching a Library:** Some of MaP's best service work happens in the holidays. And so it was that in mid-August, Ms. Caroline Bartels, Head Librarian at Horace Mann School in New York City worked with Bonolo Segale (U6) and Dineo Mookodi (U6), to launch a library for Galaletsang Primary School in Phase Two, Gaborone. Ms. Bartels brought a donation of over 500 books, which were catalogued and placed on shelves at the school. As *A Game of Thrones* author, George R.R. Martin says: "My mind is my weapon... And a mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge." Here's hoping that the minds of Galaletsang Primary School students - and those of MaP students - are constantly sharpened by good books!

**8. Basketball Defends U19 National Title for 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Running:** MaP's national champion U19 Boys Basketball team was a scrappy bunch. Mothusi 'Coach Speedy' Thipe and his assistant, Jack Golub, forged a unit that was tenacious on defence and brilliant at scoring fast-break points. Daniel Nsingo won the Best Defensive Player of the tournament for the second year running; Tumelo Bowie won Best Offensive Player and MVP award-winner Ahsante Puso was deemed the nation's Best Senior Player. Coach Speedy won Best Male Coach and 3<sup>rd</sup> Former Lone Busang was selected as the nation's Best Junior Player. Well done, boys! Now if you can keep this up for 12 more years you'll match the U19 Girls Netball team who have been defending national champions for 15 years!

**9. Inaugural MaP Naalano Leadership Conference:** Over 60 student delegates from ten different government and independent schools convened on the MaP campus from the 30<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Their focus was *Culture and Leadership*. Speakers included MaP's own Alice Mogwe, Ditshwanelo Human Rights Centre founder, Ms. Rachel Adams, Nyarachi Leadership founder and Dr. Ava Avalos, founder of the Careena Centre for Health. Participants were urged to summon the skills and practice of courage and mindfulness in order to become effective leaders. This will be the first of many such leadership forums to be hosted by MaP.

**10. Can't Live Without Your Love:** In September, MaP staff members were allowed to unleash their inner hams while performing a play written by students called "Can't Live Without Your Love". Playwrights Kutlwano Reetsang and Reneilwe Mabeo, both of 4J, created this over-the-top drama which took first prize in the 1<sup>st</sup> Term's Interhouse Drama Competitions. Lead actress and sometime PE teacher, Refilwe Bowe, played the role of a young mother who has to find true love or die. She falls for a playboy doctor, portrayed by Science teacher, Joe Schmidt, who eventually breaks her heart. Meanwhile, her awkward best friend, played by English teacher, Tlotlego Gaogakwe, does everything he can to show her he's the one. Directed by Mr Clayton Ndlovu, the play was a fundraising activity in support of the Cancer Association of Botswana.