

Principal's Report

28 July 2018

MaP crackled with positive energy this term. If the 21st century world requires creative collaboration on a global scale, then MaP is doing its part. We enjoyed abundant imported and resident talent these past few months. It's no secret that our 2nd term, spanning mid-May to mid-August, is traditionally MaP's busiest. The sports calendar was packed, *Tsotsi*, the school play was acclaimed, the music of Tutti and Soli soared, the antics of Mega Bowl entertained, the words of Verbal Emancipation challenged, the MaP Naalano Leadership Conference inspired, the Harvards and Juilliards worked their magic and a slew of northern hemisphere visitors arrived from the US, the UK, Europe and Asia. It is especially gratifying that we identified effective service opportunities for all our visitors. Now that our 2nd term guests have departed, we're left with the stern challenge of examinations.

Visits and Exchanges

Student Visitors

- **11 June – 1st July: Groton School, USA (Eliza Lord & Montanna Riggs)**
 - Both girls came to practice the marimba under the tutelage of Laone Thekiso.
- **16-27 June: Shipley School, USA (leaders Bruce Nkala and Maria Stroup)**
 - This service learning trip painted three houses at SOS Children's Village in the mornings and in the afternoons, the eight Shipley students joined our SPE program. Alice Mogwe spoke with the students about her work in human rights.
- **29 June–12 July: American School of Barcelona (ASB), Spain**
 - ASB students visited SOS Children's Village, Dukwi Refugee camp and various lodges. They met with NGOs, the Government's Education and Defence ministries and Embassies in Botswana (EU and USA). The group discussed Botswana's economy with our students and MaP alum Kitso Mokhurutshe of Econsult.
- **9 -22 July: Bryanston School, UK**
 - Former MaP teacher, Duncan Fowler Watt and Annabel Smith visited MaP with 10 students. The group spent their mornings at SOS and in the afternoons they joined our SPE program. Over the long weekend they painted the new Ditshwanelo offices, visited Ntlhantle village with Chaba Makoti ('11) and volunteered at Bontleng feeding programme with Tebatso Lekalake ('89). Alice Mogwe, Dr. Ava Avalos and Caroline Desai all shared their work experiences with the Bryanston students.
- **23–27 July: Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School, Gaborone**
 - For the fifth year running, Motswedi's students attended a week of lessons at MaP. Motswedi HOD for Pastoral Care, Modiko Pheto, explained: "Our students come back to school changed. You have some kind of magic here."
- **Rotary Exchanges**
 - The Rotary Exchanges continue to be popular and this term, we are welcoming 11 students from France and Germany. Our students will be going on their exchange during the December holidays.
- **10-11 July: Groton School (USA), East China Normal University (ECNU) Affiliated Bilingual School, Shanghai, China**
 - Groton Head of School, Temba Maqubela and his wife, Vuyelwa, joined the founder of the ECNU School, Andy Lin, and key staff, to tour MaP and discuss a tri-continent partnership of our schools to share student and staff

exchanges. Thanks to Thabo Matthews for making sure our Chinese friends enjoyed a Botswana-based safari experience!

Workshops/Interns

- **20 May - 28 May (9 days): Wits Drama group**
 - Nine Wits drama students and their professor worked with our drama students.
- **3 June - 28 July (8 weeks): Harvard University Interns**
 - Now in its 11th year, our partnership with Harvard continues to flourish. Stella Ituze (Rwanda), Connor Richardson (USA), Armeen Barghi (USA) and Lisa Matay (Tanzania) championed good reading, taught French classes and led discussions on team-building, bullying and plagiarism. In senior school workshops, the Harvards covered topics such as university applications, SAT prep, college essay writing and student life at universities. Capture the Flag games and Mega Bowl duties provided ample fun while the Principal's Scrabble Smackdowns fostered humility.
- **8-30 June (3 weeks): Juilliard School / Creative Borders**
 - Four Juilliard students came to MaP to hold theatre and dance workshops with MaP students and members of the larger community. This culminated in well-attended concerts on the 27th and 28th of June in Maitisong with 137 performers.
 - Returning this year were DJ Daughtry (theatre) and Amanda Bouza (dance). They were joined by Bianca Norwood (drama) and Sean Lammer (dance).
 - In the mornings, the Juilliard students led classes at Gaborone's Ambrose Academy, a school for 26 children who are variously hearing-impaired, speech-delayed and autistic. Workshops were also held at Botlhale, Legae, Northside and Thornhill.
- **16 July to 21 July: World Leading Schools Association (WLSA) Leadership Festival (Jeju, South Korea)**
 - Two MaP Top Achiever students, Oreeditse Mogobye and Tshegofatso Mbangwa, were invited on a week-long leadership conference held by WLSA. The students' conference fee was waived and WLSA contributed \$1500 to their flight costs. Maru-a-Pula has been invited to join the World Leading Schools Association.

Services

Director of SPE, Arlington Matshiya, wishes to highlight services that go out on Saturdays to centres outside of Gaborone. The MaP team serving Otse's Camphill community ran a very successful toiletry drive. Our Mogoditshane student teachers raised funds through bake sales and bought each Std.7 student stationery to be used during the Saturday study sessions. Barclays Build resuscitated a vegetable garden at Stepping Stones in Mochudi and Ray of Hope distributed food, clothing and undertook to build a home for a disabled man in Malwelwe. These weekend initiatives attract students who are passionate about serving the community. For them, service has become a calling.

Admissions for 2018

Form 1 admissions for entry in January, 2019, are nearly complete. MaP continues to be a top choice among both Botswana and expatriate parents residing in Gaborone. Here are the numbers:

- Our 2019 Form 1 class already has 36 members whose CDLs were paid from 2017.
- To meet our goal of enrolling 112 students we had just 76 places left to offer.
- We tested 227 Std. 7s in 2018. We made 90 offers for the 76 places available.
- **75 students accepted places, giving us an 83% yield.**
- **32** did not pass the entrance test.
- Total applications: **321** (227 Std. 7s and 94 Std. 6s)
- **51** places were offered to current Std. 6s for places in our Form 1, 2020. Of these, **38** have already paid their CDL and are confirmed for a January, 2020, start. Prospective parents have until the end of July to pay their CDL so this number will increase.
- Waiting list for Form 1, 2019: **30**
- Current waiting list for Form 1, 2018: **6**, Form 2: **8**, Form 3: **4**, Form 4: **1**

MaP's Orphan & Vulnerable Children (OVC) Scholarships

- We have sent application forms to primary schools, churches and NGOs all over Botswana.
- Our aim is to reach as many children as possible. (Please see the attached AFMAP fundraising letter to see how MaP has changed the lives of two OVCs.)
- Testing will take place in October so that successful applicants are part of our orientation.

Here is a closer look at the 111 students (plus two OVCs to be determined) who will enter our Form 1 class in January, 2019. Figures for 2019 are in bold; to the right are those for our current Form 1:

Primary Schools:	Thornhill: 32 34	Northside: 35 26	Broadhurst: 12 13
	Hillcrest 9 5	Learning Centre: 4 3	Rainbow: 4 6
	Acacia: 3 1	Baobab: 2 2	Other Primary: 10 13

Form 1 2018 National Origin (77 = 69% citizens; 34 = 31% expatriates):

- Botswana: **77** 70
- India: **13** 11
- South Africa: **6** 8
- China: **3** 4
- UK: **2** 3
- Italy: **2** 1
- Zimbabwe: **2** 2
- Australia, Mauritania, Norway, Uganda, USA, Zambia,: **1 each**

Day Students:

Girls: **53** 57

Boys: **53** 52

Boarding:

Girls: **3**

Boys: **2**

Thanks to Ruwayda Khan and Lynda Tosefsky for steering us through another successful admissions season.

A-Level Admissions

We welcomed 21 new students to our 6th Form on June 14th from all parts of Botswana. These include 13 Debswana Scholars and 8 Top Achievers. Of the 21 students, seven are from Mater Spei and four from St. Joseph's. Their former teachers described their talented students in glowing terms such as "destined for greatness", "a conqueror", and "a giant". They share a formidable work ethic, intense curiosity – one is fascinated by how mopane worms (Botswana's crunchy caterpillar snack treat) camouflage themselves on tree bark -- and high ambitions. Nine wish to be engineers, four want to be doctors, three are heading

for finance, two are eager to explore geology. Perhaps they will heed Barack Obama's advice to young African leaders recently: "Worry less about what you want to become and worry more about what you want to do."

I have attached a copy of my welcome remarks to these students and their parents. Thanks to Theresa Hirschfeld and Jonathan Laverick for their skillful handling of 6th Form admissions.

University Places

We began the year with 90 former MaP students attending the world's top-100 as undergraduates; Twenty-four of these have just graduated. In the wake of recent college admissions a further 18 MaP students have been accepted which leaves MaP with 83 undergraduates at the world's top-100. After scouring the websites of our competitor schools across the continent of Africa I am inclined to conclude (and I could be mistaken...) that **MaP leads the way when it comes to African students gaining places at the world's top-100 ranked universities.**

Director of Career and College Counselling, Sally Jobson, recently returned from Japan on a visit to Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU). Fifteen Batswana, all on full scholarships, have attended APU since its Beppu branch opened. Only two other counsellors were hosted (from Waterford and Rainbow International, Kampala). This was a big contrast to Sally's April 'fly-in' to Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, where 85 counsellors were hosted, though only 15 from outside the USA.

A Level Highlights

Director of A-Level Studies, Jonathan Laverick reports that:

- For 2018 we had a record number of 43 external applicants following Facebook ads
- We offered places to 27 of these 43, of which 18 took up their offers (66% yield). These 18 students joined 73 MaP students in our new Lower 6th class. The main reason for those who did not take up places was that they failed to reach the threshold for Top Achiever sponsorship.
- The start of the year saw **a record total of 195 students in the A Level programme, one of Africa's largest.**
- This takes the total number of Debswana sponsored students currently at MaP to 14 and Top Achievers to 60, as Maru-a-Pula has become the preferred destination for both groups.
- Despite the increase in numbers, the A Level results have remained world class. Indeed, the **AS results were the best ever achieved at MaP** by a large margin. A grades accounted for 41% of the AS grades, while 89% gained A-C. Overall pass rate at AS was 99.3% and 100% at A2.
- AS Level students, Joel Binu (Mathematics) and Shuyu Jiao (Computer Science), attained the coveted **Cambridge Top in the World Mark** award for their November 2017 examinations.

Maitisong Update

Maitisong's Director, Tefo Paya, reports that the 32nd Maitisong Festival ran for ten days with 20 shows from the 12th -22nd April. We launched the *Kgotla Dialogues Sessions* where nine schools participated in a debate competition. Ten workshops were held and approximately 2000 people attended this year's festival as audience members, participants, guests and artists.

In May, Tefo attended two youth festivals, one in Germany Stuttgart (*Schoene Aussicht Festival*) and one in Sweden (*Bibu Festival*). He took the opportunity to network and most importantly benchmark on how to organize and host youth-focused festivals.

In the last two weeks of June, Maitisong collaborated with the American Embassy to host *Dawn's Early Light*, a Motown Jazz Band in a project called *The Truth Is A Hit*. We had 15 local artists participate in the showcase, performing alongside the band. The band gave workshops focussing on Art as a profession and Arts as a force in social activism. Workshops were also held at LEGABIBO where the focus is on LGBTIQA issues, as well as the Young Africa Botswana Centre in Gaborone West where youth development is the focus.

The World Scholar's Cup

Each year thousands of students on five continents participate in the World Scholar's Cup (WSC). This event came to MaP and Botswana for the first time earlier this month with 12 schools taking part. Teams of three students competed in three categories: debate, collaborative writing and general knowledge. MaP's Aobakwe Ngwenya won the overall Top Scholar award while the MaP team of Amaresh Kathiresan, Oliver Warwick and Lucas Ho-Foster placed first overall in the Senior Division. It would appear that WSC is here to stay if only because each participant receives their very own stuffed alpaca. Fun Fact: the founder of WSC, Daniel Berdichevsky, is called the "alpaca-in-chief". Don't ask.

Sports Update

❖ In the BISA league, MaP now has nine teams competing. Of these:

- Two Soccer and three Rugby teams reached the Top 8 in the Zonals (4th stage in BISA).
- Four basketball teams – junior girls, junior boys, senior girls and senior boys reached the nationals. Junior boys achieved 1st position and are now the Botswana National Champions 2018. Moeti Dambe was selected as "Best boys coach" for the second year running. 11 students were picked for COSSASA Botswana Basketball teams.
- The Senior Basketball teams compete for the finals this week from Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 July.

❖ In the ISSSA league:

- Five Basketball teams won gold.
- All Netball teams won gold, defending their championship.
- The Cricket team won all their friendly games with big margins.

❖ International Events:

- Nine students participated in the Winter Swimming championships in Sasolburg and returned with 41 medals.

❖ MaP Invitational Tournaments:

- In the Mabonga U19 Invitational Basketball hosted as always by MaP, our boys placed 1st, girls 2nd.
- MaP- friendly: We hosted the De Duine school from Namibia with six other schools from ISSSA in a successful new partnership. Next year MaP is going to Namibia.

USA Marimba Tour: 13 April - 4 May

How many bands have concerts where Dave Matthews, of rock band fame, shows up? Well, MaP's marimba band for one. Dave Matthews attended our concert at the University Cooperative School in Seattle, Washington, where Dave's son, August, is a student. This was one of the 18 concerts that the MaP Marimba Band played during its joy-generating tour of the West Coast.

All the music – more percussive and inventive than conventional marimba fare -- was composed by our bandleader, Laone Thekiso and played by a dozen polished and professional MaP students. The tour was deftly arranged by Music HOD Celine Matthee, while yours truly served as an occasional emcee and full-time van driver. Along the way we toured the Biosphere, Amazon's spectacular urban botanical garden, we visited the offices of YouTube and explored the Stanford campus with MaP students as our guide. Our band played a concert in Google's cafeteria courtyard and viewed the future San Francisco home of the NBA champion Golden State Warriors. Best tour takeaway? Our Warrior gift bags contained convincing replicas of the 2017 NBA Champions rings!

MaP Naalano Leadership Conference: 29 June-2 July

MaP's second annual leadership conference took "Dreams to Actions" as its theme. Over four days, 78 students from 11 schools were inspired to take action by a feast of speakers and facilitators:

- Mandipa Machacha, a human rights lawyer, spoke on life priorities and effective time management
- Dr. Lucy Dickson-Clarke presented an interactive workshop on "Joyful Activism"
- *Dawn's Early Light*, a Motown Jazz Band, showed how music can inspire change.
- Samantha Claire, a professional dancer, challenged participants' fitness and rhythm
- Juby Peacock, a clinical social worker, poet and activist explained how poetry can be used to spread awareness about social issues.
- Zeus (Game Zeus Bantsi), an award-winning artist, producer and entrepreneur spoke of life's compromises and the need to write your own story.

Time was set aside for games and t-shirt painting for the children in Tshwaragano and Bontleng (with generous sponsorships from Choppies and Sefalana) followed by a pap and spinach lunch, a tangible reminder of how the other half of our community lives. MaP Naalano successfully raised awareness and students came away with an eagerness to take action. Long may its impact continue!

Mental Health week: 9-13 July

- We took 15 students to the Brahma Kumaris, a spiritual group which encourages meditation to deal with stress.
- A workshop was run by Ms Erbynn titled 'Writing as Therapy'.
- Two of our students, Kutlwano Reetsang and Billy Kokorwe, ran discussion sessions about self-confidence and vulnerability.
- Speakers Dr Kiran Bhagat and Dr Abel Thula addressed parents on correct nutrition, exercise, sleep, meditation and mental health issues faced by teenagers.
- Dr Ava Avalos, Dr Kiran Bhagat and Swift Mpoloka addressed students during assembly.

- We encouraged students to continue with activities such as yoga and meditation.

Arrivals & Departures

Earlier this term we said farewell to one Princeton in Africa Fellow, Emily Stolfus (Geography), and welcomed another, Walter Lohmann (Geography). Luisa Banchoff (History) has agreed to stay on through the end of the year. Recent Yale graduate and MaP alum, Opelo Matome, ably covered the French lessons of Madame Tabak who has been recovering from surgery following a leg fracture.

We had six highly-committed Teacher Aides working with us this term. They are:

SPE Office- Eress Nyoni

Science- Brains Vasco & Tshepang Dipholo

Front Office- Katlego Paakanyo

Music- Thomas Thomas

General- Nyasha Magate

We hosted three students on Teaching Practice from the University of Botswana, two in PE and one in Science. A pair of brothers, Ryan and Eric Ferguson made welcome contributions in drama, PE and pastoral care throughout their six-week stay from mid-May to early July.

Finally, on June 23rd, we paid tribute to the life of former teacher and Second Master (Deputy Principal) John O'Brien who served MaP with distinction for 24 years. Affectionately known as JOB, John was an inspiring teacher of English and he was instrumental in launching MaP's A Level programme. He worked tirelessly to find places for MaP students at overseas universities and was the founding father of theatre at MaP, staging memorable productions on an outdoor stage. One of John's most enduring contributions is to be found in the shade of trees and the beauty of the gardens which grace MaP's campus. JOB will be missed.

Andrew Taylor
Principal