

# Principal's Report

10 August, 2019

We have a new “Collaborative Classroom” to show you. The old staffroom has been transformed into an intriguing prototype of how MaP's classrooms might be configured in the future. We are also keen to have you see the six new staff houses emerging from the bush in the northeast corner of the campus. Transport and proper hard hats have been arranged!

This term has seen a slew of visitors and a stream of extraordinary performances and presentations on the stage, in the AV Centre, on the sports field – including two family fun days -- and in our classrooms. MaP's cultural, sporting and academic life continues to be varied and vibrant.

## Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards

For the first time in Botswana, Cambridge has added three new categories to recognise exceptional student achievement. Just a couple weeks ago we received a packet of 36 certificates for 25 students who excelled in the June and November exams of 2018. The three new award categories are:

- **Best Across:** awarded to one student with A\* grades, who has attained the highest total marks over a set number of subjects in Botswana: eight at IGCSE, four at AS Level, three at A Level. For the November exams Wen Zhang won “Best Across Three A Levels” and Yamuna Yuvaraj won “Best Across Eight IGCSEs”. For the June exams, Obonetse Keadireng won “Best Across Four AS Levels”.
- **Top In Country:** awarded to students who have gained the highest mark in Botswana for a single subject. MaP students won “Top in Country” for A Level Maths; at the AS Level for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Economics and at the IGCSE Level for Physics and Setswana (O Level).
- **High Achievement:** awarded to students who have achieved the highest marks in subjects that are not widely taken in Botswana. At the A Level MaP students won “High Achievement” awards in English Literature, History, Accounting, Biology, Computer Science, Geography and Spanish; at the AS Level for Afrikaans, Economics, English Literature, and English Language and at the IGCSE Level for Drama and German.

That leaves the already familiar “**Top in the World**” award. This award goes to students who gain the highest mark in the world for a single subject. MaP students feature in this category virtually every year. In the 2017 exams, three MaP students won “Top in the World”; in 2018, two MaP students won and this year it was Kayanthieni Panchalingam who won “Top in the World” for A-Level History.

I fear that these new Cambridge awards have stoked my overly competitive nature. So you must forgive my mention of the fact that MaP won 36 awards, while our nearest competitor won ten. I refrained from mentioning this in our ad.

## Applications to MaP's Form 1 increase by 40%

Form 1 admissions for January 2020 entry are nearly complete. MaP continues to be a top choice among both Batswana and expatriate parents residing in Gaborone. Here are the numbers:

- Our 2020 Form 1 class has 48 members whose CDLs were paid in 2018.
- With our goal of enrolling 112 students we had just 64 places left to offer.
- We tested 297 Std. 7s in 2019, 70 more than we tested in 2018. We made 88 offers for the 64 places available. (**55** did not pass the entrance test.)
- **71 students accepted places, giving us an 86% yield.**
- Total applications: **450** (297 Std. 7s and 153 Std. 6s) vs. 321 total applications in 2018. **This is a stunning 40% increase in total applications just this year**
- **55** places were offered to current Std. 6s for places in our Form 1, 2021. **37** have paid their CDL and are confirmed for a January, 2021, start.
- Waiting list for Form 1, 2020:**43**
- Current waiting list for Form 1, 2019: **24**, Form 2: **3**, Form 3: **8**, Form 4: **2**

### MaP's Orphan & Vulnerable Children (OVC) Scholarships

We have sent application forms to primary schools, churches and NGOs. Our aim is to reach as many deserving children in Botswana as possible.

Of the 119 students, plus two OVCs to be determined, who will enter our Form 1 class in January 2020 (*Figures for 2020 in bold; to the right are current Form 1s*):

#### Primary Schools

- Thornhill: **32** 32
- Northside: **35** 35
- Broadhurst: **17** 12
- Baobab: **6** 2
- Rainbow: **5** 4
- Westwood: **5** 0
- Hillcrest **4** 9
- Learning Centre: **3** 4
- Others: **12** 10

#### Form 1 2020 National Origin (**79** = 66% citizens; **40** = 34% expatriates):

- Botswana: **79** 77
- India: **16** 13
- South Africa: **6** 6
- China: **5** 3
- Zimbabwe: **2** 2
- Australia, Italy, Mauritania, Nigeria, Norway, Uganda, USA, UK, Zambia,: **1 each**

#### Day Students:

- Girls: **61** 53
- Boys: **58** 53

#### Boarding:

- Girls: **4**
- Boys: **1**

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

## A Level Highlights

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

- The start of the year saw a **record total of 208 students in the A Level programme, one of Africa's largest. This represents a 79% increase since 2009.**
- We currently host 14 Debswana sponsored students and 60 Top Achievers, as MaP has become the preferred destination for both groups.
- This year we were the **preferred destination for every single Government educated Top Achiever**, with the new M6 class containing 17 non-MaP Top Achievers.
- Thanks to the efforts of the Bursary Committee we were able to top up this M6 class with three additional outstanding and deserving students.
- The A Level results have remained at a world class level, with 58% of results being A/A\*.
- **AS results were a MaP record 58% A's**, beating the previous years total of 45% - itself a record.
- **26 Cambridge 'Best Across', 'Top in Country' and 'High Achiever' awards were issued to 6<sup>th</sup> Form students at MaP.** Our nearest competitor at A Level scooped six. These awards included a "Best Across" student award at both AS and A Level.
- The UM6 enjoyed a cultural/history trip to Old Palapye.
- The LM6 enjoyed a day trip to Moremi Gorge. Goitseone Morekwa sent me this thank-you note, which has helped me to see what my true priorities should be:  
*"I just want to thank you for taking us the middle sixes out to Moremi Gorge. We really enjoyed ourselves primarily because it was the first time some of us went to such a relaxing place. We are very delighted to see that it is in your best interest to make us happy and may you please continue that spirit."* [my underlining]
- Along with the Harvard Interns we had a number of former students talk to the A Level groups about university life and career decisions including:
  - Fathima Muinudeen (Law, London, Queen Mary's)
  - Zawadi Williams (Linguistics, U of Amsterdam)
  - Rathna Verni (Medicine, U of Dundee)
  - Ami Burton (BA Literature/History, UCT)
  - Katlego Paakanyo (ALU, Rwanda)
  - Jamie Burton (Engineering, UCT)
  - Avinash Palaparthi (Civil Engineering, U of Tennessee,)
  - Huvesan Pillay (Engineering, WITS)
  - Owen Jobson (Industrial Design, U of Technology, Eindhoven, Netherlands)
  - Naana Frimpong - corporate governance and white-collar crime

## University Places

Sally Jobson, our Careers & College Counselor, reports that 81 students (those who left in Nov 2018 or June 2019) will start university in 2019:

- 21 are off to the UK (2 for medicine)
- 15 to the USA (Yale and Stanford included)
- 9 to Canada (Toronto and UBC included)
- 8 to Australia

- 7 to the Netherlands (who knew? High quality education at incredibly low prices)
- 4 to South Africa (1 on Allan Gray scholarship)
- 3 to UB
- and others to Hong Kong (full scholarship), Caribbean (medicine), Uganda (medicine), China, Russia, India and Belgium.

By the end of 2019 over 50 universities from all over the world will have been represented on the MaP campus. We will have hosted three university fairs and welcomed other admissions officers individually.

MaP hosted a competition by Strathmore University (Kenya), with full bursaries as prizes. MaP won the school contest and had the top scoring female, while three MaP boys tied for top male.

## Service & Enrichment Highlights

Special mention for Service this term goes to Srikaiveri Sriram (U6) and Jithya Wijesinghe (L6), who organised a blockbuster dance and music show called "Vishwasaya: In Faith We Trust". Their dancing incorporated elements of ballet and taekwondo. Bands, singers and guitarists all pitched in as well. An astonishing P166,000 -- the highest total ever raised by students -- went to the Happy Hearts Home Project of the Gaborone Ladies Circle and the Cancer Association of Botswana. This aims to provide accommodation in Gaborone for children undergoing cancer treatment and their caregivers.

### World Scholars Cup (6 - 7 July)

The second World Scholar's Cup brought together 135 students from eight participating schools: MaP, Legae, Al-Nur, Sedumedi CJSS, Oriel International, Rainbow, St Joseph's College and Naledi CJSS. Scholars competed in various challenges, including debates, quizzes and talent competitions, for a chance to attend the Global Round in Beijing later this year. The event was a resounding success with several MaP students taking home trophies and medals. Stuffed alpacas sporting strange blue fur were liberally distributed to all.

## Visits and Exchanges

### Student Visitors

#### 20 May - 2 July: Ecole Alsacienne - Paris, FRA

Thalia Mouzannar, Salome Peyrache, and Irene Souny spent six weeks at MaP. They were home hosted by Sekani Fichani, Tabitah Tobedza and Lebopo Isaacs. Tabitah and Lebopo will be heading to Paris in mid August.

#### 29 May - 28 June: St Johns College - Johannesburg, RSA

Student Jake Tanzer was our first exchange student from St Johns. We will send a MaP student in the third term.

#### 8 June - 30 June: Roxbury Latin - Massachusetts, USA

RL students Liam O'Connor and Ian Balaguera spent three weeks at MaP. The boys enjoyed time in the boarding house, at Vic Falls and at a family farm in Serowe.

**30 June -5 July: Groton School, USA and Imagine Scholar, South Africa** Groton Principal, Temba Maqubela and Vuyelwa Maqubela, 13 students from Groton and eight students from Imagine Scholar (an after-school programme in Mpumalanga, South

Africa) joined eight MaP students for workshops and team building. The three groups have been meeting over Skype since late last year and this was their first meeting in person. The group spent one night at Madikwe and three days at MaP.

### **6 July - 1 August: Gredo San Diego Schools, Madrid, Spain**

GSD is a new addition to our exchange program. Three students, Alejandro Hiruelas Molina, Claudia Hiruelas Molina and Francisco Bouzas Cobelas joined us for three and a half weeks. The Director of Co-Curricular programs at GSD, Victor Berzal, visited MaP from the 6<sup>th</sup> July - 12<sup>th</sup> July and we discussed future exchanges and school trips to Madrid.

### **22-26 July: Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School, Gaborone**

Eight Form 3 students, 4 Form 2 students and 4 Form 1 students joined our classes for one week. At the end of the week, they enjoyed the Form 2 skits *Under The Baobab Tree*.

Our Student Exchange & Visits Coordinator, Tebogo George, would like to extend a special thank-you to all the MaP parents who hosted exchange students over weekends and long holidays. Special mention and thank you to the First Lady, Mrs Neo Masisi, who hosted the Ecole Alsacienne, Roxbury Latin and St Johns students for a wonderful and fun afternoon tea at Sanitas on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

## **Workshops/Interns**

### **3 June - 28 July (8 weeks): Harvard University Interns**

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, our partnership with Harvard continues to flourish. Nia Meadows (USA), Ayana Gray (USA), Anna Mazur (USA), Char Deslandes (UK) and Lerato Takana (Lesotho) led discussions on public speaking, interview skills, LGBT+ awareness, emotional intelligence and team building. In senior school workshops, the Harvards covered topics such as university applications, SAT prep, college essay writing and student life at universities.

### **9-21 June: Juilliard Alumni**

Two Juilliard students – Myles Hunter and Kylie James – conducted dance workshops with MaP students and members of the larger community. This culminated in a well-attended concert on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Maitisong with 80 performers.

In the mornings, workshops were held with our 6<sup>th</sup> Formers and the Northside and Thornhill primary schools.

## **Staff, Student and Parent Wellness**

This year, we decided to include our parents in our quest for student wellness. Due to the high frequency of cases of anxiety amongst students our Awareness Forum focused on stress and anxiety among teens, intervention, support and referrals. A parents/guardians talk was presented by Larkfield Educational Services. The Parents' Forum is becoming popular and parents have started suggesting topics for the meeting.

- Ms. Emma Sadlier, founder of the Digital Law Co. in South Africa, gave a riveting presentation to both parents and students on the risks of social media. The basic advice to her audiences was that they should not post anything that they are not prepared to see on a public billboard. Put simply: "Digital content is dangerous content."

- Mr. Bradley Fortuin of LEGABIBO addressed students at assembly during Pride Week. The aim of his address was to encourage understanding and tolerance of the LGBTQ community.
- There is an ongoing mental health platform led by Billy Kokorwe in Form 5. This is a discussion forum run and attended by students only.
- Mercy Erbyynn teaches ongoing sessions in relaxation technique to individual students as well as small groups of students.
- MaP holds a Wellness Week every second term. During this week staff health screening is conducted by the Botswana Retired Nurses Society (BORNUS). The clinic includes screening for blood pressure, blood sugar, HIV, Pap smears (27 in all) and prostate enlargement testing. The BORNUS also focused on cholesterol, weight, height, body mass index, breast examination, demonstration and supply of both female and male condoms and eye examinations. A total of 77 staff were examined and results were shared confidentially.

## Maitisong Update

Director Tefo Paya reports that from April 5<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> Maitisong presented the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Maitisong Festival, featuring 32 performances, workshops, panel discussions, and networking activities spanning 16 days. The festival included two international acts, Drama for Life and the Mamelodi Female Jazz Band as part of the festival. Over 2000 people attended the festival this year.

Two visiting dancers -- Marcel Gbeffa (Benin) and Parth Mevada (India) -- were part of our Artist in Residence program. These two dancers and choreographers ran intensive workshops for 20 dancers over four weeks and presented two showcases which were well attended. Marcel's showcase also featured a French saxophonist by the name of Clement Duthoit. They also ran workshops with MaP students focusing on music and dance.

Tefo had the opportunity to attend the *International Colloquium 2019* "Culture for the Future – Creativity, Innovation and Dialogue for Inclusive Development", a conference hosted by the EU in Brussels, Belgium where he learned about the kind of projects the EU is inclined to fund.

In July, Maitisong kicked off the fifth season of the Madi Majwana project in partnership with Barclays. The group had a very successful 12-day tour around the country, travelling over 4000kms, visiting 15 towns and villages, and engaging over 3000 people using drama to ignite discussions around financial issues.

## Performing Arts

### **Va-Va-Voom Monologues (6 July)**

MaP's Drama Department treated us to an unforgettable afternoon of theatrical monologues. Set on different stages, the Memorial Garden, the Setswana Hut, the School Bus, the Old Borehole and the offices of Ditshwanelo: the Botswana Centre for Human Rights, the monologues invited the audience to explore one another's viewpoints. The topics they covered included issues of human rights and the role of tradition.

### **Tutti and Soli (11 July)**

"Violins, flutes, drums, piano, voices, saxophones, guitars all in a vibrantly lively, colourful show. Did I mention marimbas? Them too and they were dazzling: dazzling sounds, dazzling rhythms, dazzling enjoyment." - David Slater, former Director of Maitisong

The MaP Music Department showcased the immense talent in our school with their annual production, Tutti and Soli. Parents, students and staff members enjoyed an evening of melodious vocals and rich instrumentals. Hosted by Maitisong Director Mr Tefo Paya, the evening included performances by the MaP Ensemble, Nteta and the new MaP Marimba Band.

## **Sports Update**

### **BISA (Botswana Integrated Sports Association) LEAGUE**

#### *National Championships*

#### **Juniors- 19 – 21 July**

Three teams qualified: Rugby and Boys' & Girls' Basketball. Both basketball teams earned Bronze medals.

#### **Seniors- 25 -27 July**

The MaP U19 Girls Basketball Team beat Lobatse Secondary in the national finals 60-25 and are the 2019 BISA Champions. Our last national championship for girls was in 2012.

Our U19 Boys Basketball Team lost in a hard-fought championship game to Mater Spei and earned the Silver Medal position.

### **The COSSASA (Confederation of School Sports Associations of Southern Africa)**

MaP contributed 11 players (6 girls and 5 boys):

- **Girls:** Oneile Serumola 4L, Lerunne Letsholo 2L, Peo Mogatwane L6L, Naomi Matala 3K, Lebopo Isaacs 4L, Katso Busang 3M.
- **Boys:** Lone Busang 5M, Hugo Moeng 3K, Motheo Semauso 4J, Louis Magana, George Lekoma 4L.

### **ISSSA LEAGUE**

Of the teams that participated:

- Three Basketball teams earned Gold (U19 Girls and Boys, U16 Girls). U16 boys Silver.
- Netball teams U19 and 16 girls defended their championships.
- The U19 boys Football team earned Gold this year. Last time we won was in 2016.
- The Cricket team defended their championship.

### **International Events**

The following students have been picked to participate:

- **World Junior Championships**, Budapest, Hungary (16 August - 26 August): Andile Bekker 4J, Maxine Egner 2K.
- **All African Games**, Morocco, (15 - 31st August): Ethan Fischer 4J.
- **Africa Junior Championship**, Tunisia (9 - 17 September 2019). Kgotla Mokobi 1M, Andile Bekker 4J, Tselane Matthews 3J, Hannah Jobe 4J, and Tumo Matija 1L.

## **MaP Naalano Leadership Conference: 28 June-1 July**

The theme of our third annual leadership conference was "Mind the Gap". Over four days, 81 students from 11 schools gathered at MaP to share ideas.

- I shared the short film, "House without Snakes" which tells the story of a former student from New Xade, Ketelelo Moapare. A lively discussion ensued regarding the gaps that exist in our community and culture.

- Legabibo addressed the gap that exists in the understanding of our LGBTQI community. In the Q&A session many questions were asked and misperceptions addressed.
- Kelly Ramputswa, the station manager of Yarona FM, led an interactive session where students shared their future goals and stumbling blocks to reaching their goals. Kelly encouraged them to never give up and to seek out the guidance of a trusted mentor.
- We visited the Tsholefong Community Trust in Old Naledi and distributed a large amount of non-perishable food items donated by MaP students. We engaged in a variety of fun activities and prepared a hearty lunch for the children.
- Members of Leaders-in-Action ran discussion groups on a variety of topics including unemployment, entrepreneurship, inequality, traditional culture and the challenges and changes Botswana should undertake.

## **Development and Alumni Office**

This term, the Development Office worked with Joe Gould – a development consultant and American Friends of Maru-a-Pula (AFMAP) Director. Last year, Joe spent two months at Maru-a-Pula assisting with setting up the development office. We were happy to have him back to help evaluate the programme so far.

Old Mutual continues to sponsor a full Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) scholarship for the fifth year in a row. Our partner for 10 years, the BIHL Trust, made their annual donation to the school's OVC scholarship fund. This year they increased their gift by P50,000!

The Database Coordinator is developing an alumni communications strategy to be launched in the third term. This term nearly 400 alumni records were updated.

## **Archives Progress Report**

The store at the back of the A-V Centre has turned out to be quite an Aladdin's Cave of treasures! Chief amongst these have been four files of Deane Yates' official and personal correspondence covering the years approximately 1972 to 1975 (later years may still turn up). There were about 400 of these and they have been catalogued. They cover fund-raising, the 'final' building programme of the school, the Botswana Christian Council and much more.

A list of the nearly 70 works of art that adorn the school walls both inside and out has been added to the general catalogue. These artworks are an extraordinary feature of the MaP campus.

Two articles have been written (they have been attached) from the archives: one on the great contribution that Ned Hall made to the early development of the school both financially and philosophically and the other on the remarkable influence of Archie Mogwe on the school from its conception to the present - the longest of all the school's associations with that of David Matthews a very close second!

Occasional letters from the archives have been sent to the school body to highlight some interesting event in the school's history. Photographs from the collection have been regularly uploaded to the "Early Maru-a-Pula" page on Facebook. The Archives page on the school website will soon be up and running.

## Conference of Heads of Private Schools (CHOPS)

Having applied for membership of the Conference of Heads of Private Schools in Botswana (CHOPS) in 2018, MaP was invited to attend the annual CHOPS Conference in Kasane in June this year. The Conference was attended by the Heads of around 30 private primary and secondary schools. Judy Brown represented us in my place. Judy reports that the keynote speaker, Steve Harris spoke about moving schools from “Surviving to Thriving” and “Mental Toughness” for both staff and students. The major benefit was the opportunity to compare notes and share challenges, particularly on permits and recruitment. Team building was an important part of the conference, and since this involved a game drive and a boat cruise, it cannot be said to have been all hard work!

## World Leading Schools Association (WLSA) Conference

I travelled to Prague, Czech Republic, for the biennial WLSA Conference (18-20 July) to present a talk titled “Who Belongs in our Schools? A View from Botswana”. The brilliant documentary film, “A House Without Snakes” featuring the MaP experience of Ketelelo Moapare from New Xade, helped me to illustrate the imperative of including students from impoverished backgrounds in our schools. WLSA membership offers MaP opportunities for student exchanges, staff development and interactions with top schools globally with a particular emphasis on outstanding schools located in Beijing and Shanghai.

MaP is now a member of four key associations: our local **CHOPS**, the regional **ISASA** and the global **World Leading Schools Association** and **Global Connections**. Our participation in these associations will help make MaP a stronger school.

## Arrivals & Departures

We had many teacher aides, volunteer visitors and student teachers working with us this term.

### Former students

Oratile Mosuagae	SPE
Craig Mtizira Nondo	Front Office
Caroline Mayanja	Ruwayda Khan
Kabo Mosetse	Science
Phatsimo Kelly	Science
Wen Zhang	Maths
Kabo van Rudloff	Music
Tebuho Moyo	PE
Naledi Ketsitlile	Maitisong
Laone Ramogerita	Science
Etres Nyoni (Volunteer)	Business

### Visitors

Giorgia Bakeberg (Volunteer from Australia)	Music
Charlie Froy (Volunteer from UK)	Drama and Maitisong

## **UB Student Teachers**

Maipelo Lekgowa

Tshwetso Kaan

Pearl Mabolokanye

Karabo Keltlilwe

English and History

French and Geography

P.E.

P.E.

Earlier this term we said farewell to our highly dedicated Princeton in Africa Fellow (PiAF), Walter Lohmann, and welcomed another enthusiastic PiAF, Winnie Godi, who will take over Walter's geography classes.

After four years of his dedicated service, we bid farewell to English/History teacher and U17 Boys' Rugby coach, Graham Creighton. Graham is moving on to teach and coach at Uplands College in South Africa. We are delighted to welcome Greg Dube to work in our History department and to assist in our Career & College Counseling office.

After 22 years of committed service to MaP and Botswana Steve Jobson will be leaving MaP to take up a teaching post in Cairo, Egypt. Steve is both an artist and a builder. He built the elegantly shaped computer tables in R1; he painted two brilliant wall murals for the MaP campus, one of the legendary Sailas Mabonga at the basketball courts and, with his son Owen working alongside, the striking depiction of MaP life on the outer wall of the cafeteria scullery. More recent work includes metal sculptures adorning the walls of the new staff room, one a beautiful tribute to the life of Abdul Hoosain. He has been the driving force behind many exhibitions and productions both on and off MaP's campus. Several of Botswana's finest artists have found him to be an inspiring colleague and mentor. And who can forget the most labour-intensive show of all: the Junk'd Fashion Show held in the school pool? Go well Steve. Your colleagues, fellow artists and students will miss you.

I was delighted to host (4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> June) the Vice President of the American Friends of Maru-a-Pula (AFMAP), Wendy Davies, along with her husband Walter Johnsen, their son Walter and friend, Cara Peterson. The younger Walter and Cara, both recent Cornell graduates, made compelling presentations to our senior students about their work on converting carbon and self-driving vehicles. Wendy and Walter have been generous hosts for numerous AFMAP fundraisers in NYC and Wendy has kindly arranged for our visiting marimba band members to attend Broadway shows. We'll be back in 2020!

It was a great pleasure as well to host (13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July) AFMAP Treasurer and former MaP Science teacher, Richard Kassissieh, along with his wife and fellow educator, Julia, and their sons David and Charlie. Richard has arranged for his school, University Prep in Seattle, WA, to host a MaP Scholar, Otsile Phirie, for the upcoming school year.

A final note: Joe and Jennifer Gould's five-week return to MaP was most welcome. Joe's contribution to our development office has already been noted. But Jennifer also made an outstanding contribution by clearing, pruning and shaping the many trees, bushes and plants in the Wilson Memorial Garden. Now with new benches installed students and staff can better enjoy the peace and beauty of this special place. Thanks Jennifer!

Andrew Taylor  
Principal