



MAGIC • MOMENTS • MEMORIES

1. INTRODUCTION:

The following strategies and information reflect the activities and general functioning of the school.

2. STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE LEARNER PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING AND TEACHING IN GENERAL

2.1 Educator Training, mentoring and support:

- The following teachers joined Merensky High School:
 - Mrs Mareli Joubert – Discipline Clerk – 1 April 2017 – SGB appointment
 - Mrs Lindy Britz – CS1 Educator – 1 April 2017 – Natural Sciences – SGB appointment
 - Mr Jan Potgieter – Assistant CS1 Educator – 1 April 2017 – Agriculture – SGB appointment
- Class Visits by principal: Life Orientation classes – Gr 12
- Class visits by deputy principal to support new teachers
- Mrs Liesl van Kasterop attended a National School Safety Framework Workshop on 25 April 2017
- Staff development & training:
 - SASAMS training for admin staff – 3 April 2017 (Training done by Karien van der Westhuizen DBE)
 - HOD meeting: Mrs vd Merwe held an HOD meeting to discuss learner intervention and curriculum coverage - 26 April 2017
 - Subject support meetings attended at Tzaneen district - 24 - 26 April 2017

2.2 Morale Building:

- A formal staff meeting was held on 24 April 2017 in the staffroom. During this meeting several important matters were discussed. On 10 March 2017 a stress training workshop was held for all personnel. Tsaneng Combined was invited but no one attended the workshop.

2.3 Resignations:

- Mrs Stephanie Perold (CS1 Educator) resigned and left our employment on 31 March 2017.
- Mrs Rina Klaver (Piano Teacher) resigned and left our employment on 31 March 2017.
- Mrs Mignon Engelbrecht retired on 30 April 2017. A farewell function was held in the staffroom on 26 April and with the learners during assembly in the hall. She will be fondly remembered for her sense of humour and by many of the English Second Language learners who passed through her hands.

3. LTSM

The new prescribed books for grade 12 were ordered by the school and received. We only purchased the poetry anthologies and the novels for the various languages. We are in the process of compiling a whole new LTSM policy on the procurement of text books by the school.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE

The hub and the amfi theatre is in the process of being completed. This will be a tremendous asset for the growing school numbers to have a place where the whole school can comfortably assemble at the same time. During break times and in the afternoons learners can sit and relax or do homework in this area.

5. ACADEMICS

- ### 5.1 Adopt-a-Genius: “Adopt a Genius” is still going on with their activities. Thirteen registered tutors are busy with their tutoring sessions. A special session is booked for the 3rd of May 2017, during the grade assembly, to introduce the “Adopt a Genius”-project to the Grade 8 learners who are currently not participating. Tutors hope to see good results during the coming examinations from their learners.

5.2 Prizegiving: On Thursday, 2 March 2017 the first prizegiving function of the year was held. During this event learners were acknowledged for their achievements in academics for 2016 as well as summer sports. Mr Francois Schwalb opened with scripture and prayer and was also the guest speaker of the evening. His message was motivational for young and old.

The highlight of the evening was the special awards for Dux Learners of each grade 2016 and the Junior and Senior Victor and Victrix Ludorums for Athletics. Heinrich Schultz on saxophone and Danzi Ivy as vocalist entertained the audience.

5.3 Interact: The Interact Club of Merensky High School went to Goue Jare Huis vir Bejaardes in Modjadjiskloof on the 29th of March. Fifteen matrics went on this outreach. They took lots of cookies and cupcakes. They also prepared a few songs for the elderly. They spend 2 hours visiting and they really enjoyed giving their time and money for someone else.

5.4 Tritech: The Merensky rounds are taking place. More info will be available in the next report.

5.5 Top 10 Tour: Thirty grade 9 – 11 academic achievers from Merensky enjoyed five days in Pretoria during the annual top 10 tour from 26 to 30 April 2017.

5.6 Scuba Diving: Anke Venter, Larissa Vogel and Luandi Venter, grade 8 learners from Merensky High School, completed their scuba dive open water level 1 course at Sodwana Bay during the April holidays.

7 E-LEARNING

7.1 We are currently monitoring the educator's use of SmartClass. The names of the educators that had used SmartClass the previous day are read in the staffroom in an attempt to increase the use of SmartClass by all grade 8 and 9 educators. The process is still going slow. Our new software that is being developed by Ekasi is not near the targets they set, but we have decided to work with what we have, SmartClass. The teachers can broadcast their lessons and can administer short quizzes at the start or end of a lesson. Their usage will be monitored by our technician and feedback will be given in the staffroom to apply more pressure to use the software.

8 LEADERSHIP/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/RCL

8.1 Leadership Course: Leadership courses were held on: 1 March, 19 April and 3 May 2017 for the gr 8, 9, 10 and 11 learners. Gr 11 learners completed info for application to be eligible for election as EC member.

8.2 Executive Committee: EC members were actively doing duty during breaks. They supported sport events and assisted at the parents evening, Frikkie Deysel Picnic, braai for new parents etc. EC Meetings were held on 18 April and 2 May. The EC is raising funds for their outreach to supply socks and nutritional packs to needy kids. A "Vellie -Friday" will be held on 5 May to raise funds for this project.

8.3 RCL: A meeting was held to discuss how we can make a difference in the school. We decided on making posters with our school values to try and generate positive peer pressure. The posters have been procured and just need to be created by the groups.

9 EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

9.1 Frikkie Deysel picnic and fund raising project for matric farewell: We had our annual Frikkie Deysel picnic and fundraising project for the matric farewell on 19 April 2017. The learners enjoyed it tremendously and they had various interesting picnic hampers. The learners dressed according to their career of choice. Once again the learners showed spirit. We want to keep this tradition.

9.2 President's Awards:

- Elzette van Dyk, Gr 12, became the first ever gold award holder at Merensky after she completed all the requirements for the Gold level.
- Ms Yolande Rautenbach, Mrs Ada Venter and Mr Seph Oosthuizen took 5 learners on their Gold hike near East-London from 6-14 April. The hike they did was the famous Strandloper hike. The hiked along the coast from Kei-Mouth to Gonubie. Mrs Juanita Middleton, Ms Christel le Roux and Mrs Sunet van Gass joined the hike.
- Ms Yolande Rautenbach, Mrs Ada Venter and Mr Seph Oosthuizen took 22 learners on their first bronze hike to Rooikoppies on 31 March 2017.
- Bronze PA certificates were handed out to the learners on 18 March.
- Six learners completed their residential project at Tshenga Missions in Bolobedu South from 27 April. They will submit their journals before the end of May to also receive their Gold certificates.

- A facebook page for the President's Award at MHS was created. Photo's of the hikes and projects completed are posted there. The page was created and will be administered by Mrs Yolandé Rautenbach. So far we have 45 likes. Please support this prestigious activity by liking our page.

9.3 Merensky Day: On Wednesday, 1 March the annual Merensky Day was held. Chantel Schoeman (class of 2011) was the guest speaker. The Grade 10 learners modelled Plasie school uniforms of the past.

10 FUNCTIONS/SPEECH COMPETITIONS/EXPO/EXCURSIONS/CAREER EXHIBITIONS/OLYMPIADS

10.1 Poort 2017: On 23 April the school received the results of this writer's competition presented by the SA Academy for Science and Art. Learners from all over South Africa compete in this competition. Elzette van Dyk, Gr 12 was announced as one of the Top 10 achievers in prose in the country. Both her works will also be published in their anthology. Four other learners have also been selected for their work to be published in this anthology: Imcke van Vuuren (Gr 10), Marlu McLean (Gr 12), Anize Basson (Gr 10) and Freddie Lubbe (class of 2016).

10.2 SAIPA Olympiad: The top 15 Accounting learners from grade 12 were selected to compete in the SAIPA Olympiad. The first round will be written on the 17th of May, at Merensky. It will be a multiple choice paper. Learners had to pay an entry fee of R50 per learner for the Olympiad. There are great prizes to be won, so we are hoping for the best.

10.3 SAICA Olympiad: We are still awaiting the entry forms for 2017, and will make contact with the representative for Limpopo again.

10.4 UJ- Fimo Olympiad:

This is the first year we entered for this Olympiad. This Olympiad is organised by Proverto, the same organisers of the SAIPA Olympiad. Learners must take Mathematics and Accounting to be able to enter. We have received the study guides for round one, which will be written at Merensky on the 10th of May. Learners had to pay an entry fee of R50 per learner. We are not sure what to expect but learners are very excited about this Olympiad, as again there is the opportunity to win great prizes.

10.5 National Afrikaans-Expo 2017: The Afrikaans Ekspo has taken a new form in 2017. They have decided to use modern technology to make it easier for every Afrikaans student to participate. It is open to all grade 6- to 12 learners and also students from any country that is using Afrikaans as a second or third language. The theme of this year is "Protes". They can use their protest in a poem, diary entry, an essay, a newspaper article or in a photo. They can also have their own choice theme for their entry. The closing date is 30 June 2017 and we will endeavor to enter a wide group of learners.

11 MEDIA AND MARKETING

11.1 **Road Show**: Roadshows are planned as usual.

11.2 **Open Day**: The 2017 Open Day is scheduled for 19 May, 08:00.

11.3 **Year Book**: Work already commenced on the 2017 year book with regards to photos and layout strategies.

11.4 **Notice Boards**: Notices, advertisements, motivational slogans and current photos appear on the notice boards. The design on a "You Are Here" sign in front of the school is in progress.

11.5 **Websites**: The hsmersky.co.za website is used widely by parents and learners. The news and events are updated weekly and important resources are published frequently. The radiomerensky.co.za website is the main streaming site for our online radio station.

11.6 **Facebook**: The Facebook page is very popular and posts are made regularly. On a weekly basis up-to-date news and happenings are published. Followers: 5495 to date. From April 5 to May 2 we have reached 25 408 people, had 19 399 post engagements, 1 591 page views and 54 new page likes.

11.7 **Twitter**: Facebook posts are also sent to our Twitter feed. Merensky's Twitter page has 219 followers and 809 tweets to date.

11.8 **Instagram**: The Instagram platform is still very popular. A lot of learners are using Instagram. We have 1634 followers with 54 posts, following 1256 people. Winners of our second photo competition, wherein the best photos published in 4 categories (sports, academics, social/hostel and culture) win R150 Spur vouchers, has been announced in the hall end of term 1.

11.9 **School Communicator**: The School Communicator contains the school's calendar (updated at least on a weekly basis) and is being updated on a weekly basis with news, photos and other resources like newsletters and notices. News alerts are also posted. The usage rate of unique users is currently 47%. Active desktop users: 226. Active mobile users: 188. New unique installations in the last 30 days (as on 2 May) is 34.

11.10 **Local Newspapers**: Articles are sent to the two newspapers on a weekly basis. Both the papers publish a lot of our articles. The parents and general public is well informed on school news through this medium. Merensky has a very good standing with both the local newspapers.

- 11.11 **Advertisements:** Full colour, full page advertisements for Open Day will be published by Northern Bulletin and Letaba Herald on Friday, May 12. A “Save-The-Date” Open Day digital advertisement has been published on Facebook and in our M-Bulletin.
A digital advertisement for the “Duvet Blues” musical has been published on Facebook 3 times to date. Full colour A1 posters have been put up in the school.
- 11.12 **M-Bulletin:** The M-Bulletin is sent out as a weekly e-newsletter. This newsletter is sent out to more than 1000 parents, alumni and friends. The M-Bulletin is sponsored by Auto Pedigree Tzaneen. Included in this newsletter are links to more news on the website. All 2015, 2016 and 2017 M-Bulletins are available on our website.
- 11.13 **Did You Know? Newsletter:** The “Did You Know” newsletter is sent out when we want to bring something specific under the public’s attention. This newsletter is also available on our website. On 1 May a “Did You Know” was published on old Plasie, Fran Blandy.
- 11.14 **Radio Merensky cell phone app.:** Radio Merensky app is available on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.
- 11.15 **Radio Merensky:** Radio Merensky is broadcasting music 24 hours a day. When the new hub and amfi-theatre are finished the approach will change from a “community” radio station to an EVENTS radio station where we will broadcast live during certain events in the school, as well as before school when learners gather in the quad, and during breaks. Pre-recorded shows sent to us from other radio stations are loaded to our cloud-system.
- 11.16 **GTFM (Greater Tzaneen FM):** Showed interest in broadcasting some of our live programs on their air waves. A follow-up meeting must still be arranged.

12 AGRICULTURE

- 12.1 A new plant house was erected for Agri learners to cultivate vegetables.
- 12.2 The Agri Laboratory is being built.
- 12.3 The enthusiasm of Mr Arno Last encouraged more than 40 learners to join Agri Merensky. The Agri-Merensky shirts were ordered.
- 12.4 The Agri teachers all make use of e-learning.

13 CULTURE

- 13.1 Repetitions are under way for the Musical in May. 49 actors and singers plus 61 dancers are participating. Invitations have been extended to VIP’s, sponsors and Mr and Mrs F Nomvela.
- 13.2 Final auditions for the 2017 Ser group were held. 25 Super voices are practising every Wednesday afternoon.
- 13.3 6 Teams have entered the ATKV Debate competition to be held on 10 May in Naboomspruit.
- 13.4 16 Orators will be participating in the first round of the ATKV Redenaars Competition on 12 May in Louis Trichardt.
- 13.5 MDDA classes are under way and learners attend diligently.
- 13.6 Several of our learners participated in the SATCH competition. John Slabber received two gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal. John also won the overall prize for the best variety act for Poi dance. He also qualified for Team SA to Orlando in July but had to withdraw as a result of the financial implications. Danzi Ivy and Kesia Pohl both receiver silver medals in the vocal division.

14 HOSTEL

- 14.1 Improvements are still on the way in the hostel and we look forward to seeing the final results.

15 COMMUNITY PROJECTS (TSANENG COMBINED SCHOOL)

- 15.1 An invitation was sent to Tsaneng Combined to participate in the Bizskills Training Session. Bizskills has agreed to do their training free of charge as part of the Merensky agreement.

16 SPORT

- 16.1 **Golf:** On 21 April the golfers of Merensky High School played their second league match against HTS Tom Naudé. The players experienced four seasons on the course, ranging from cool weather to mist and warm sunshine. The Plasie B-league and C-league both won 4 – 0.
- 16.2 **Biathlon:** Joné Geyer, a grade 9 learner qualified to represent Limpopo at the South African biathlon championships in Paarl.
- 16.3 **Chess:** Smart moves were also strategically made by the chess players. The Plasie Brainiac’s – Colin van Niekerk, Wiehan Cloete, Louis Heyns and Kevin van Onselen – won their games in round 1. Round 2 resulted in a win for Van Niekerk and an equalizer for Cloete.

16.4 **Netball:** We have played against Piet Potgieter High School, Tom Naude and Rob Ferreira during April. All teams excelled in their various matches and only the u/17a team lost against Rob Ferreira. The league starts on 11 May when we play against Stanford and Southern Cross. We are looking forward to a competitive league and hope to have all our teams participating in the Limpopo Championships.

It is also the final trials for the Limpopo teams and we wish all the girls luck with the trials. We hope to have at least 9 players representing Limpopo.

The A-teams attended a training camp at Sun City during the April holidays. Their skills were honed and team spirit developed amongst all players.

16.5 **Rugby:** With the rugby going full steam ahead right through March and April, Merensky is looking forward to the upcoming League matches taking place in May. We kicked off our rugby season with our first match against Hoërskool Ellisras on 4 March 2017. On 11 March 2017 we played our second match against Hoërskool Tom Naude. 25 March 2017 against Hoërskool Piet Potgieter our last match before the start of the school holidays.

During the school holidays the different age groups took part in rugby weeks. The 1XV and 0/16 team took part in the Merensky NTK week. From 31 March to 5 April 2017. Merensky's new rugby week that is starting to grow in to one off the best rugby weeks available in the March and April holidays. This year 16 teams from all over South Africa took part in the Merensky NTK rugby week.

The rugby week gives coaches and the boys the opportunity to play against some of the best schools in SA and it also helps to prepare the team for upcoming leagues that will take place. It is a great invitation from Merensky and NTK to give boys other opportunities and experience in the sport rugby. With the conclusion of the week two teams were chosen to take part overseas. A u/16 team was chosen to tour to Namibia in October and a first team was chosen to tour to Argentina in October.

Our u/16 and first team boys did well during the Merensky NTK week. The u/16 boys' team won 2 out of their 3 game. The first team boys won all 3 of their games, beating 2 big schools Hoërskool Vereeniging, Potchefstroom Gimnasium and Hoërskool Jeugland.

Our u/14 and u/15 boys participated in the Danie Rossouw rugby week at Hoërskool Rob Ferreira in Witrivier from 7 April to 11 April 2017. The u/14 team won 1 out of the 3 games. The u/15 team won 2 out of their 3 games.

After the April holidays we had 2 more matches that took place for all age groups. Hoërskool Rob Ferreria on 22 April 2017 and Hoërskool Lydenburg on the 25 April 2017. Rugby at Merensky is improving with the help from our coaching staff and the principal. We want to make Merensky's rugby great and to give our boys enough exposure to rugby skills and life skills to improve them as individuals.

16.4 **Athletics:**

11 March 2017: 36km run to Eiland

1. PHS; Merensky 1; Phunani 1
2. Ben Vorster 1
3. Merensky 2
4. Pfunani 2
5. Ben Vorster 2

12 March 2017: Lima Athletics

Noko Malatji was selected for the Limpopo Team and he will participate in Cape Town at the SA Schools Championships in the 110mH and 200m events.

16.5 **Girls Hockey:**

4 March 2017: Hockey vs Ellisras

Team	Score
U/14 Girls	Won 4-0
U/15 Girls	Won 6-0
U/16 Girls	Drew 0-0
1st Team	Won 12-0

25 March 2017: Hockey vs Piet Pot

Team	Score
U/14 Girls	Lost 0-6
U/15 Girls	Lost 5-2
U/16 Girls	Lost 7-0
2 nd Team	Drew 0-0
1st Team	Won 3-1

17 -21 March 2017: 1st team girls DF Malan course

Games	Score
Vs Brandwag	Won 1-0
Vs Outeniqua	Lost 0-3

Vs Curro Durban Ville	Won 2-1
Vs King Edward	Lost 2-0
Vs Stellenberg	Drew 0-0
Vs Langenhoven	Won 1-0
Vs Pinelands	Lost 2-0
Vs La Rochelle	Drew 1-1

MHS won the fitness challenge and best team spirit out of 43 teams. Lilly Pohl was included in the dream team of the tournament.

U/15 & U/16 Girls– Tuks: 31 March – 3 April

The u/15 and u/16 girls attended the Tuks hockey clinic in Pretoria hosted by Nicolene Terblanch (SA ladies captain)

U/15 Girls Games:

Games	Score
Zwartkop	Won 1-0
Oos-moot	Won 4-1
Menlo park	Won 3-0
Westridge	Won 3-0
Witbank	Lost 0-2

The u/15 team was placed 2nd in the tournament.

U/16 Girls

Games	Score
Penryn	Lost 0-2
Oos-Moot	Lost 0-2
Sasolburg	Lost 0-4
Witbank	Lost 0-7
Westridge	Drew 0-0

U/14 Girls – Tuks hockey week 30 March - 2 April

This tournament was held by Nicolene Terblanche the 2016 SA hockey captain.

U/14 Girls

Mpumalanga	Lost 0-2
Menlo	Drew 1-1
Phs	Lost 0-7
Oos-Moot	Won 1-0
Mpumalanga	Lost 1-2

U/14 Girls were placed 4th out of 6 teams.

25 April 2017: Girls chosen for the Limpopo Team:

U/14 Girls: Dezi Dreyer; Nikita Pohl; Lune Fritz; Palesa Shuluwane; Victory Mathebula

U/15 Girls: Danielle Kasselmann; Bercha Venter

U/16 Girls: Kesia Pohl

U/18 Girls: Elzanne Engelbrecht; Lilly Pohl

22 April 2016: Hockey vs Rob Ferreira

Team	Score
U14 A	Draw 1-1
U15A	Won 5-0
U16 A	Lost 0-2
2 nd Team	Won 7-2
1 st Team	Won 3-1

25 April 2017: Hockey vs Lydenburg

Team	Score
1 st Team	Won 9-0

16.6 Boys Hockey:

Limpopo hockey trials: The following boys were selected for the Limpopo hockey squad:

U/14: Mahlatse Mmola; John-Robbert Honiball

U/16: Dillon de Lange; Masilo Mabilo; Luan Botha; Ryan Jackson; Itumeleng Makhubela

U/18: Donovan van Tonder; Stefan Prinsloo; Jordan Stevens; Mabule Modiba

Merensky played a friendly game against Lydenburg on Saturday 25 March 2017:

U/14 won 1 – 0. It was a good opportunity for the players to play their first game. Player of the match Henry Visagie.

U/16 won 4 – 2. The boys struggled the first half to find their feet and was 0 – 2 behind. The second half of the game they pulled up their socks and played some good hockey and won the game 4 – 2. Nico Pretorius scored 2 goals, Talon Griffiths and Colin van Niekerk one each. Player of the game Nico Pretorius.

2nd team lost 0 – 2. The boys had the upper hand in the game but could not round off in the circle and that cost them the game.

The Players of the match were Alisdair Pio and Enslin Sambo.

1st team won 4 – 0. The first team had a very physical game. Wayne Coppin scored the first goal, JJ Davis one and Mabule Modiba scored two goals. Donovan van Tonder did excellent work to stop all the goals from Lydenburg. It was a team effort and everyone played their hearts out.

During the March/April holidays we had the opportunity to attend different hockey tours/clinics to learn new skills and to improve our hockey skills.

TUKS Hockey Tour 31 March – 3 April 2017

Merensky's U/15 and u/16 boys attended the TUKS hockey tour in Pretoria. Nicolene Terblanche SA woman's captain was the main coach during this event. The players learned a lot from her and the TUKS 1 players.

The purpose of the clinic was to improve the player's technical and tactical skills. The players bonded as a team and learned a lot of new skills. We played competitive games against schools we have not played against before. They improved in each game as they implemented the skills they learned from the TUKS coaches.

The MHS coaches attended different sessions by Guy Elliott: TUKS men's head coach and Inky Zondi: TUKS woman's head coach.

The 1st team boys attended the NWU-PUK hockey clinic in Potchefstroom from 3 – 6 April 2017. They were undefeted at the PUK hockey clinic.

Merensky played a friendly game against Rob Ferreira on Saturday 22 April 2017

U/14 lost 0 – 1. They played a good game but could not round of in the circle. Player of the match was Kyle Bradley Hamilton.

U/16 won 2 – 0. Doran Kleynhans and Arne Le Grange scored beautiful goals. Rob Ferreira did not make it easy for us and we had to work hard for every goal. Player of the game was Johan Strydom.

1st team won 3 – 0. In a very physical match Mabule Modiba scored 2 goals and JJ Davis one. Stefan Prinsloo and the Plasie defenders kept the scoring card clean on their side.

The Merensky boys played their first league match against Ben Viljoen on Tuesday 25 April.

U/14 boys lost 1-2. They played good hockey but lost in the last minute of the game. We are proud of every player that showed a lot of potential.

U/15 boys lost 0-1. It was a tight game consisting of good skill from both sides. Ben Viljoen managed to creep one goal past the goaly. We had plenty of opportunity to score and made the goaly tired, yet the ball avoided the box. This is a team worth seeing in action. Man of the Match - Jaco van Staden.

U/16 boys lost 0-5. The boys played in the rain and that got the better of them. They struggled to get their composure. We had a lot of chances to score but the boys could not round off in the circle and at the end of the day that cost them the game.

2nd team won 3-2. Francois Smith scored the first goal in merely few minutes of the game. Ben Viljoen retaliated by scoring 2 goals. John-D Ball made the score even with a field goal. In the second half John-D Ball scored yet another goal making the winning score 3-2. Both teams showed heart and wonderful sportsmanship on the field.

1st team won 2-0. The First team started exceptionally well and scored an early goal through some Samuel Modiba magic. He also set up JJ Davis for the second goal. Donovan Van Tonder rescued the defense a few times with brilliant goalkeeping and kept another clean sheet.

16.7 Archery:

On 20 and 21 May, eighteen of the Merensky Archery Club participated in the second ABO competition of the year. The Triple Crown took place at Wildcrete in Pretoria. National scores were obtained by Ricus Warmenhoven and André van der Merwe, while Beneché Jackson, Martin Mostert and Lin-Mari Theron scored provincial scores.

Gold medals were awarded to Dawie Theron, André van der Merwe, Izelri Theron and Martin Mostert. Lin-Mari Theron received a silver medal and Canell Jackson, Armand Wiers and Beneché Jackson bronze.

Merensky's first team (Lin-Mari Theron, André van der Merwe, Canell Jackson and Sean Hunt) scored second place at the end of the day, with the second team (Rohan Wewege, Ashley Hunt and Armand Wiers) in third place.

16.8 Tennis:

ACTIVITY	TEAM / TRAINING GROUP MEMBERS	RESULT
1. SENIOR LEAGUE FESTIVAL (15 March)	All MHS A and B teams competed in the annual tennis league held in Polokwane. 8 schools in the area competed.	BOYS A – 3 rd place BOYS B- 4 th place GIRLS A- 3 rd place GIRLS B- 3 rd place
2. FRIENDLY MATCHES	MHS, Ben Vorster, Curro, University of the North, Stanford, Frans Du Toit are playing a series of friendly matches in term 2.	1 st match of the term: MHS D vs Ben Vorster D (MHS draws 5-5 with Ben Vorster)



		Other results still pending.
3. School advanced practice (Tuesdays and Thursdays)	Used to prepare players and team for tournaments and leagues.	Good daily attendance.
4. School Preparation Practice / Beginners (Mondays)	Good attendance – possibility of a second time slot for another beginner group. Continuous interest.	Good progress.
5. Tennis fun day (1 May) *Social tennis	Various MHS players could enter, bringing along a friend to participate in doubles tournament. Any level and age player welcome to play social tennis on a daily basis.	Postponed due to rain. Social players: 10-12 per day.
6. Private Coaching (Daily)	Currently 20 MHS Tennis players having the opportunity to receive professional and private coaching. Total of 30 tennis players in and around Tzaneen that participate in Tennis coaching @ MHS facilities.	Good progress.

- 16.9 **Swimming:** Ronan Theron participated at the Level 2 club championships and received a gold medal in the 50m fly event. Doran Kleynhans participated at the Level 3 club championships, and received 3 gold medals for 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke and 100m Backstroke. Doran also received a silver medal for the 50m Fly event. Daniel Smit (u/14) participated at the Junior National championships, he participated against the u/15 team and improved his times. Tayla Vos and Doran Kleynhans participated in the SA Schools championships, and also improved their times. The annual swimming prize giving was held on 27 April 2017 in Merensky's restaurant. The above swimmers received special prizes for their outstanding results. Other swimmers received a certificate for participation at the inter-high and top ten schools in 2016.
- 16.10 **Biathlon:** Tayla Vos and Joné Geyer participated at the SA schools Bi-Athlon championships in Paarl 8 April 2017. Both athletes improved their times.
- 16.11 **Triathlon:** Janco Coetzee and Amelia Middleton competed at the Central Gauteng and Tswane triathlon championships at Germiston Lake. Both these athletes ended second in their category.

17 MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

- 17.1 **MUSEUM:** The person that did all the camera work for Open Day took nice footage from inside the museum. This footage will be used on the school's website. The long term plan would be to start with a virtual museum. The Museum had a lot of visitors during the home winter sport games. Another two of the legends at Merensky have gone on retirement. Mr Ockert le Roux, as well as Mrs Mignon Engelbrecht. Slideshows of these teachers time at Merensky were made for their farewell, and these slideshows will be shown in the Museum, and kept safe in the archives. We are still awaiting much needed storeroom space to move the archive.
- 17.2 **MEMORIAL WALL / GARDEN:** We were very sad to hear of the passing of Mr Jakkie Jacobs. He was no longer in service of the School at his passing, and as such his name will not appear on the Memorial wall, however he is mentioned inside the Museum for teachers with more than 25 years of service. He will be missed.

18 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 18.1 On 22 March several teachers of Merensky High School were awarded trophies and certificates for their results in the 2016 matric exams. Merensky was announced to be the school with the most Bachelor candidates. Merensky was also awarded a 1st place for the best school in the top 3 public schools with 100 learners and more in matric. Michelle Stevens and Bianca Spies were honoured for their 3rd and 11th places in the Mopani District. A total number of 46 Plasie teachers received certificates for various achievements. On Friday, March 31, the Department of Education, Tzaneen Circuit hosted an awards ceremony at Merensky High School. On this occasion, all schools and teachers from grades 4 to 12, were recognized for their hard work in 2016. Merensky High School is overwhelmed with its awards in the academic field. 46 Plasie teachers received certificates for various achievements. Mss. Bets Claasen (Life Orientation), Danielle Fourie (CAT) and Martha Leeuwner (CAT) and Messrs. Louis Fourie (Agriculture and Civil Technology) and Mr Danie Olivier (Engineering Graphics and Design) were honoured as best grade 12 teachers in Limpopo. Merensky High School was named the best in Agricultural Management Practices in Limpopo. 38 Certificates were handed out to Merensky teachers who have produced the best results in their subjects in the Tzaneen Circuit. A further 56 certificates went to top 10 teachers. MHS also won the Mathematics Club 50 trophy.

- 18.2 The principal, Mr Magnus Steyn, was elected as the Deputy Chairperson of the PEC and also as a member of the NEC of SAOU.
- 18.3 Mr Steyn was also announced the Businessman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce in Tzaneen.
- 18.4 Mrs Eileen Elbrecht was elected the receptionist/secretary of the year by the Tzaneen Chamber of Commerce.
- 18.5 Mr Louis Fourie was elected the Limpopo Representative for SAAEU.
- 18.6 Ms Alexandra Dreyer, teacher and tennis coach displayed her versatile sport skills on horseback and the tennis court on the weekend of 3 – 8 March. She came third in the equestrian endurance race over 80km. The next day she was placed 2nd in the ITF Tennis National Championships. She is still first seeded in her age group in South Africa.
- 18.7 Fran Blandy (class of 2001) is now the East African Journalist for AFP (Agence France-Presse) based in Nairobi.

