



MOBA Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter for the Mfantsipim Old Boys Association (MOBA) - January - June, 2018 - Vol 1: Issue 1

Let us Strengthen our Fraternity...



"A man who calls his kinsmen to a feast does not do so to save them from starving. They all have food in their own homes. When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon; every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so."

This quote from the renowned African writer Chinua Achebe aptly captures the reason for this publication. Apart from informing, it is also to help sustain interest in the affairs of MOBA and encourage the full participation of "Old Boys" in all its activities.

Whilst commending "Old Boys" for their unfailing support, we must accept that we have challenges that need to be addressed. Chief on the agenda is apathy when it comes to participation in MOBA related activities.

A combination of factors account for this, but we believe that the irregular flow of information may have contributed to this. A sure way of dealing with this will be through regular, engaging and well-coordinated communication. With the introduction of this publication, we hope we can effectively communicate with "Old Boys" both at home and abroad and maintain the visibility of the Mfantsipim Brand.

This is one of the initiatives being implemented to help cement the spirit of cooperation and participation of Old Boys. Recently our website, mfantsipim.com was launched and we will continue using the multimedia and social media platforms.

However, it is important to note that this publication is for all of us and its success will depend greatly on the valued input of every member of the Mfantsipim fraternity.

In his address at the Induction Service of the MOBA NEC Ebusuapanyin Capt. Paul Forjoe stated that "The Mfantsipim Brand is solid, it is awesome – It is God's gift to us. We have to nurture it, grow it and always keep it strong."

As far as alumni Associations go, MOBA unarguably blazes the trail, so whilst we have an inalienable duty to Mfantsipim and MOBA, we also have thrust upon our shoulders a huge responsibility to keep this torch burning.

I conclude with the last part of the quote from Chinua Achebe which states that

*"...Let us continue with the Team Spirit
and enjoy the power of togetherness.
Let us smile not because we don't have problems
but because we are stronger than the problems."*

MOBA Events (Past & Future)

	Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
1	Saturday 27 th Jan	9am	National Conference/Business Fair	Kofi Annan Int'l Peacekeeping Training Centre
2	Sunday 8 th April	9:30am	Founders' Day Service	School Quadrangle
3	Sunday 22 nd April	3pm	MOBA Gey Hey Gospel Explosion	Covenant Family Community Church
4	Friday 25 th May	10am	Inauguration of 2008 Year Group	Asbury Dunwell Chapel, Wesley House
5	Saturday 26 th May	8pm	MOBA-USA Fundraising Dinner Dance	Martins Crosswinds in Maryland (MD)
6	Thursday 30 th Aug	5:30pm	MOBA 1968 50 th Anniversary Lecture	Ghana Academy of Arts & Sci. Auditorium
7	Wed. 19 th Sept	5:30pm	MOBA Annual Engagement Series III	British Council Hall
8	Saturday 13 th Oct	6pm	MOBA Fundraising Dinner Dance	Golden Tulip, Accra
9	TBA	10am	Annual General Meeting - TBA	Asbury Dunwell Chapel

142nd Anniversary Speech Day Activities: 3rd – 11th November 2018, Mfantsipim Cape Coast

	Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
a	Saturday 3	5:30am	Mini Marathon (Inter-Houses Cross Country)	In front of Lockhart Schweitzer House
		6:00am	Medical Outreach	
		11:00am	Food Bazaar	
		6:00am	Entertainment	
b	Sunday, 4	10:00am	Church Service	Quadrangle
c	Monday, 5	3:00pm	Debate (Mfantsipim vs. WGHS)	Assembly Hall
d	Tuesday 6	1:00pm	Inter-Schools Science and Math Quiz	Assembly Hall
e	Wednesday 7	3:00pm	Mfantsipim & WGHS Staff Games	School Field
		6:00pm	Time with Old Boys: Life after Mfantsipim	Assembly Hall
f	Thursday, 8	7:00am	Breakfast – Old Boys & Staff	PATO
		6:00pm	Inter-Houses "Jama" Competition	Lockhart Schweitzer
g	Friday 9	6:00am	Medical Screening – MOBA Ashanti	Infirmary
		1:00pm	Lunch – Old Boys & Staff	PATO
		2:00pm	Commissioning of 2018 SYG Project	Junior Science. Lab
		3:00pm	Cadet Parade	School Field
		5:30pm	Unsung Heroes Ceremony & Fireworks	By Admin Block
		6:00pm	Literary Night – Invited Guest and Prefects	Assembly Hall
		7:00pm	Homecoming Cocktail for Old Boys	Pempamsie Hotel
h	Saturday 10	8:00am	Exhibitions	Multipurpose Building
		9:30am	142 nd Anniversary Speech & Prize-Giving Day	Quadrangle
		7:00pm	142 nd Anniversary Dinner Dance	Pempamsie Hotel
i	Sunday 11	9:00am	142 nd Anniversary Thanksgiving Service	Quadrangle
		12 – 3pm (EST)	MOBA USA Speech Day Thanksgiving Service	Methodist Church 13016 Parkland Drive, Rockville, MD 20853
		3:30 – 5:30pm (EST)	MOBA USA Bi- Annual General Meeting	

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Contributions to "MOBA News"

The Editorial Board welcomes News and pictures on Year Group/Chapter activities, MOBA related news, articles on different topics, reminisces of days in School, letters to the Editor etc. from "Old Boys." Kindly send to:

mobanewsletter@mfantsipim.com

or by whatsapp to 0556439873

Advertising Space

Advertising Space is available for businesses, products, events etc. Interested persons should kindly call 0556439873 for further details

MOBA Business Directory

The MOBA Secretariat will publish an online Business Directory for 2019. The Directory will have a list of "Old Boys" all over the world who would want to showcase their businesses, products and services for a fee.

The businesses will be categorized by: business type, locality, activity etc. and all the necessary contact details.

For further details kindly send a request by whatsapp to 0556439873 or send an email to

mobabusinessdirectory@mfantsipim.com

Editorial Board

Edmund Smith Asante ('83)

Laud Freeman ('97)

Daniel Dadzie ('08)

Solomon Wiredu ('83)

Bernard Ato Otobil ('88)

Kwame Gyasi ('65)

Kofi B. Coleman ('76)

Kodwo Morgan ('77)

From Ebusuapanyin's Desk

Capt. Paul Forjoe ('73)



This first MOBA Newsletter marks another innovation in our quest to promote our brand and bring information to old boys. Whilst it essentially provides information about our Association and Alma Mater, it is our hope that it will eventually evolve into a "must read" periodical for all—in Ghana and abroad.

I am aware that an attempt was made some time ago by MOBA UK to publish a newsletter but this initiative seems to have died.

In this modern era of social media, information dissemination happens at the touch of a button. Though this Newsletter will be circulated electronically, it is our hope and belief that it will be printed and kept as a record of our activities and a treasured historical reference document for generations of Old Boys.

Though this maiden edition covers the first 6 months of 2018 (January to June), subsequent editions will be issued quarterly.

There is an array of interesting features in this first volume and it is my hope that old boys will actively contribute to the development and growth of the Newsletter with articles and information.

Let me congratulate the Secretariat, and Editorial Team, the columnists and all who contributed in diverse ways to publish this maiden issue.

I hereby declare the MOBA Newsletter duly launched!

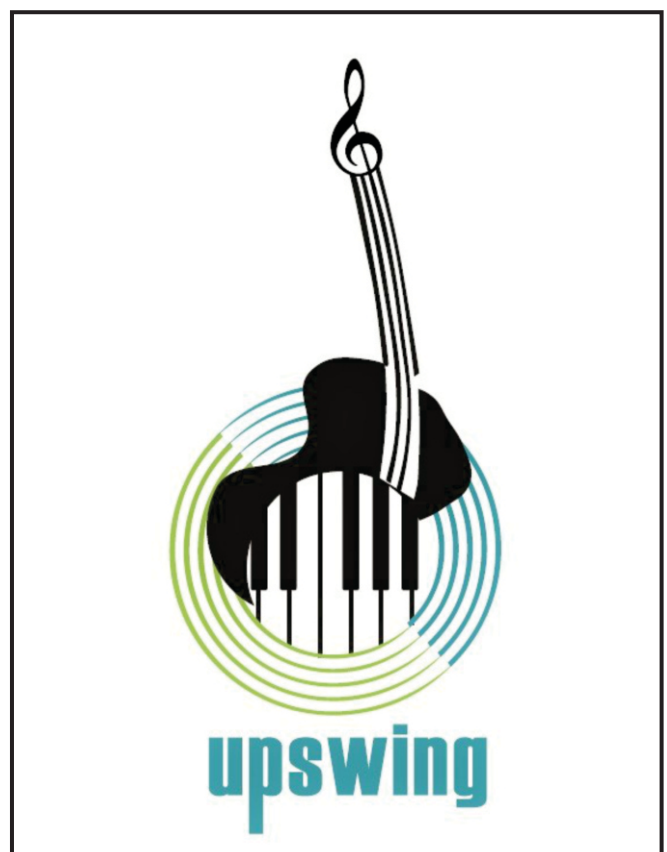


Insight + Experience = Solutions

Life is a maze.
But if you can find a partner whose expertise you can rely on through life's oftentimes daunting challenges, one with the insight to understand your needs, then you are assured of solutions that will help you navigate this intricate pathway...
Life could then be amazing.
That partner is GCB Bank Ltd.



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New Board & Assistant Headmaster for Mfantsipim

A new Board of Governors for Mfantsipim School has been constituted. Members of the Board are:

1. **Most Rev. Dr. Paul Boafo - Chairman**
Presiding Bishop - Methodist Church Ghana
2. **Very Rev. (Mrs) Nana Dannyame**
General Manager - Methodist Educ. Unit Schools
3. **Mr. Samuel Bannerman-Mensah**
Representative - Director-General, GES
4. **Captain Paul Forjoe**
Representative - MOBA
5. **Mr. Moses Aristophanes Kwame Gyasi**
Representative - MOBA
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7. **Mr. Philip Kwesi Incoom**
Metropolitan Director of Education
8. **Mr. Manfred B. Oduro**
Headmaster, Mfantsipim School
9. **Mrs. Kay A. Oppong-Ankomah**
Headmistress, Wesley Girls' High School
10. **Mr. Anaisie Yarquah**
Cape Coast Metropolitan Assembly
11. **Mr. Alex Quaynor**
School Lawyer
12. **Dr. Frank Adu Asante**
Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Chairman
13. **Representative of Teaching Staff**
14. **Ms. Georgina B. Gyawu**
Representative, Non-Teaching Staff
15. **Assistant Headmaster (Admin) - Secretary**
16. **COP Paul M. Awuni**
Regional Police Commander
17. **Ms. Vivian Carrey**
Rep. Regional Electricity Company of Ghana



William Mitchual ('80)
Assistant Headmaster (Academic)

Mr. William Mitchual completed Mfantsipim in 1980 and trained as a teacher at Wesley College in Kumasi. He continued his education at the University College of Education (UCEW) and graduated with a Diploma in English Education. In 1997, he graduated with a BA. English and Education at UEW. He recently attained a MA in English at the University of Cape Coast (UCC).

He started his working career at Aggrey Memorial SHS and rose to the position of Head of the English Department.

He serves as a Part-time Lecturer in Communication Skills at UCC and Co-coordinator at the College of Distance Education at the UCC Center.

Mr. Mitchual, recently appointed as the Assistant Headmaster (Academic) for Mfantsipim is passionate about the school and wants to work hard to make Mfantsipim the best in everything. He is very particular about inculcating in the students the necessary skills and values that will make them useful members of society.

He is married with three children.

Vice - President Fulfils Promise - New Bus for Mfantsipim!



H. E. Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumiah, Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana has on behalf of the Government presented a 65-Seater Eicher bus to the School. This gesture was in fulfilment of a promise he made, as the Guest of Honour, at the 141st Speech & Prize-Giving Day Durbar of Mfantsipim in November 2017. The presentation was done on 15th May 2018 by Mr. Kwamena Duncan, the Central Regional Minister who is an Old Boy and received by the Headmaster, Mr. Manfred Barton Odro.

MOBA National Visits NSMQ Team



Representatives of the MOBA National Executive Committee (MOBA NEC) led by Ebusuapanyin Capt. Paul Forjoe, paid a visit to the Mfantsipim National Mathematics & Science Quiz Team at the Jean Aka Nelson Hostel at the University of Ghana, Legon.

The team were presented with water, drinks, packed lunch and some money.

Capt. Forjoe urged the boys to work hard to win the competition. Speaking on behalf of the boys, Daryll Thompson who competed in the 2017 competition thanked MOBA National for the kind gesture and assured them that they would win the trophy for the third time and for keeps.

Year/Chapter Groups and individual Contributors (cash or in kind) towards the National Maths and Science Quiz Team

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---|
| 1. 1973 | 8. 2001 | 2017 SYGs: Furnished a room in the Multi purpose Building. MOBA 1994 then provided ICT support. This was followed by a donation by MOBA 2001 of a computer and accessories at the 2018 Founders' Day |
| 2. 1979 | 9. MOBA USA | |
| 3. 1981 | 10. 1997 | |
| 4. 1983 | 11. 2006 | |
| 5. 1988 | 12. 1965 | |
| 6. 1989 | 13. Dr. Arkutu ('55) | |
| 7. 2000 | 14. Yaw Afranie ('77) | |

"Old Boys" (Individual/Groups) Donation to School

1. **Dr. Andrew Arkutu ('55)**
 - Books for the Library
 - Human Anatomical Model for Science Lab
2. **Dr. K. D. Asante ('76)**
 - 22 Hockey Sticks, 16 Shin Guards and hockey Goalkeepers' outfit to Sports Department.
3. **Yaw Afranie ('77)**
 - Large quantity of assorted drugs to the School's Infirmary
4. **MOBA 1993**
 - Donation of 110 plastic chairs to the school to celebrate 25th anniversary of the Year Group
5. **MOBA Golf**
 - Donated a Samsung 49" Curved TV to the School.

The Sponsoring Year Groups (SYGs) Tradition

In his book 'Mfantsipim and the Making of Ghana' Professor Albert Adu Boahen ('64) recounts the story of an "Old Boy" who wrote a letter to the editor of the *Gold Coast Echo* dated 10th September 1888. The said letter drew attention to the discouraging state of the School which he attributed to the fact that 'the internal administration is not so active as it used to be in the days of Mr. Picot and Mr. Mountford.'

He went on to warn that 'The days of the Wesleyan High School, Cape Coast, are numbered unless the Principal of the School, whoever he be, bestir himself and follow in the wake of the past successful masters of the School.'

The love for the School and the desire to see it develop positively by "Old Boys" started so many years ago. It is nothing new!

Numerous efforts were made in the 1940's and 1950's by "Old Boys" in their bid to organize themselves into a formidable group to 'give back' to the School. This resulted in the Mfantsipim Old Boys Association(MOBA) being officially inaugurated in 1947.

The compilation of a register of Old Boys was started and an Old Boys' Reunion was held from 29 – 31 July 1949. In 1950, the Constitution and bye-laws of the Association were revised, and several meetings were held by the Central Committee to revive branches of the association and plan the 75th Anniversary Speech Day.

In 1951, a special fund, started to assist in equipping and maintaining the Africa section of the School Library raised an amount of £270. Then again Old Boys raised 200 guineas to enable the School send four (4) Ghanaian teachers to the UK for refresher courses.

There is no doubt that over the years, Old Boys of Mfantsipim have consistently demonstrated that spirit of collective and collaborative good towards their alma mater. However a structure has been adopted that ensures efficiency so that the School reaps the full benefits of the efforts made by "Old Boys"

The structure operates in such a way that every year, particular Year Groups, celebrating various decade anniversaries are tasked with some responsibilities towards the School and MOBA.

These are the classes celebrating 60, 50, 40, 30, 20 and 10 years of leaving Mfantsipim. They are referred to as the Sponsoring Year Groups (SYGs) with those celebrating their 30th anniversary called the Lead Year Group.

The responsibilities can be grouped into two categories, those that are Year Group Specific and the ones that are for all the SYGs (Joint Responsibilities).

1. Year Group Specific Responsibilities

Fifty (50) Year Group

- **Chairman** - SYGs Planning Committee
- **Facilitator** - Founders' Day Counseling Session
- **Guest Speaker** - Inauguration of Year Group celebrating 10 years of leaving Mfantsipim
- **Panel Member** - MOBA Engagement Series
- **Special Guest** - Speech & Prize-Giving Day Durbar

Forty (40) Year Group

- **Facilitator** - Founders' Day Counseling Session
- **Panel Member** - MOBA Engagement Series
- **Chairman** - Speech & Prize-Giving Day Durbar

Thirty (30) Year Group (Lead Year Group)

- Propose Theme for Year-long anniversary celebration
- Organise Annual MOBA Fund Raising Dinner in Accra
- Provide Book Prizes at the Speech & Prize-Giving Durbar
- **Facilitator** - Founders' Day Counseling Session
- **Panel Member** - MOBA Engagement Series
- **Guest Speaker** - Speech & Prize-Giving Day Durbar
- **Guest Preacher** - Speech Day Thanksgiving Service
- Sponsorship of National Math & Science Quiz Team

Twenty (20) Year Group

- **Facilitator** for Founders' Day Counseling Session
- **Panel Member** for MOBA Engagement Series
- **Organise** 'Homecoming' Cocktail on the eve of Speech & Prize-Giving Day.

Ten (10) Year Group

- **Organise** the inauguration of Year Group into MOBA
- Voluntary contribution towards any of the responsibilities for the other SYGs

2. Joint Responsibilities

- Provide two (2) representatives to serve on the SYGs Speech Day Planning Committee.
- Undertake a joint project in the School
- Contribute 10% of Total cost of project to MOBA Endowment Fund
- Organise and fund the following Events:
 - Founders' Day Activities
 - MOBA Engagement Series
 - Commissioning of Projects/Plaques, Lunch etc
 - Logistics needed for Speech Day activities
 - Speech & Prize-Giving Day Durbar Brochure
 - Dinner Dance for Staff & Old Boys after Speech Durbar

Theme for 142nd Anniversary Celebrations

Ghana is endowed with natural resources with extensive potential to impact its development. The recent discovery of Lithium is indicative of the presence of other minerals within the geology of Ghana that may not have been discovered as yet. The immensity and stretch of our mineral potential is boundless and the key to unlocking this potential is technology!

Years ago, aluminum was very valuable compared to the current status of gold. Napoleon III gave aluminum utensils as gifts to his most important guests. The reason for the ubiquity of aluminum is due to the introduction of electrolysis. This innovation simplified the process of extracting aluminum and since then it lost its “shine” as a priceless metal. Technology, as a resource liberating mechanism, can be a real game-changer in moving a country forward.

The theme for this year’s celebration was chosen to facilitate a discussion that will engage our minds on the role science and technology can play in bringing development to Ghana and bridge the gap between what is taught in the classroom and what pertains in industry.

For any nation, the most priceless resource beyond measure is its human capital. No natural resource can surpass this immense potential. It is therefore pertinent that we consider the key factors that undergird the educational approaches that are necessary to unlock the nation’s human capital. The current education system and its potential to churn out technology graduates needed to excite the development engine must be critically analyzed.

For a country like Ghana which is rich in resources, we should have industries that are at the forefront of adding value to the extracted resources and thereby creating immense employment opportunities for young graduates. However the statistics show that the unemployment rate amongst the youth is above 60% which, in the view of many security experts, poses a national security risk.

The challenge to create opportunities for the younger generation has never been this daunting. Technology companies have shown great capability to deliver the needed jobs quickly to the market.

The MOBA Engagement Series held on Thursday September 13th 2018 focused on the impact of technology in industry and how we can leverage the capabilities for accelerated growth of the nation and create the much needed job opportunities.



In line with tradition, the 30 Years (lead Year Group) proposes the theme for the year long celebration. MOBA'88, accordingly proposed a theme which has been approved by MOBA NEC.

In this write-up, Ato Roberts (President of MOBA'88) gives us an idea of the thought processes that guided them in arriving at this decision.

The importance of government policy towards engendering a technology based culture that permeates all facets of national endeavor cannot be underestimated. Current technologies will have to be assessed to determine how it is being used to transform government processes and activities. Government's role in creating the requisite ecosystem, through policy, in order to catalyze a technology culture in both public and private organizations will need to be assessed.

We have to look at the future and determine if there is really anything to be “scared off” with the growth of artificial intelligence and other similar technologies. What will the future be like and how can we as a nation position ourselves to leverage the benefits of technology to leapfrog into the future?

The 2018 SYG project for the year - the rehabilitation of the Junior Science Laboratory - further concretizes the commitments towards effective teaching and learning of science and technology in the school and beyond.

***Harnessing Resources through Science & Technology;
The Education and Industry Nexus***

2018 SYGs' Project: Rehabilitation of Junior Science Laboratory

The 2018 Sponsoring Year Groups Speech Day Planning Committee has been formed to plan activities for the 142nd Anniversary Celebration of Mfantshipim. Members of the Committee are: Prof. Ralph Mills Tetteh ('68)-Chairman, Samuel Quaye/Gerry van Dyck ('78), Ato Roberts/Emmanuel Davies ('88), Jeff Mensah/ Kofi Amanianpong ('98), Clive Elliot Mills/and Kwame Nyamekye ('08). MOBA National is represented on the committee by Capt. P. Forjoe (Ebusuapanyin), K. B. Coleman (Secretary) and Kodwo Morgan (Actg. Executive Secretary)

The 2018 SYGs, with the approval of the MOBA Projects Committee decided to renovate the Junior Science Lab. The lab has not seen any major renovation since it was built.

This new effort is expected to:

1. Provide a modern, well equipped lab for the study of Science and Technology in the School.
2. Create an enabling environment that will allow the assimilation of new skills and capabilities to make the students scientifically and technologically oriented.
3. Provide adequate facilities and equipment to enable teachers acquire new skills they can transfer to the students.
4. Strengthen the alumni network to continually support The School



After a visit to The School, the Committee came up with the following:

1. Installation of a new roof, roof beams and supports and ceiling
2. Fixing of new doors and windows, electrical retrofitting of entire building, rehabilitation of plumbing facilities and installation of photovoltaic solar energy generation system.
3. Provision of furniture and lab equipment and facilities

The Project is estimated to cost **GHC 800,000.00**

A bidding process was initiated and Sawyer-Nanor & Sons Co. Ltd. were selected. The work expected to be done involves the removal of windows, doors, ceiling, roofing with associated works such as tiling and painting.

The contractor has been introduced to the Headmaster and other Staff members, the contract for the project has been signed and work is ongoing.

The Transition of Mfantsipim from a Public to Private School

Moses Baiden ('83) & Member of MOBA Endowment Fund Fundraising Committee



Mfantsipim School is celebrated in the memories of all its alumni primarily because throughout its history, the quality of students has been the cynosure of its existence. In consequence, exceptional investment was made towards the instilment of morality, discipline, academic quality and the pursuit of excellence in all areas. To facilitate this, substantial contributions were made towards resources and tools, which provided them with the highest quality of education.

MOBA being recipients of that level of quality erudition resulted in much more than high grades and impressive extracurricular activities – as boys; it made it imperative to stand out in the midst of such a distinguished group - and as men, it has led us to be catalysts of ground breaking achievements and the narrators of incredible tales about our journey from boys to men.

It is our intention that these particularities that made us so extraordinary do not simply exist as part of our history but transition into our present and future. It is unacceptable that members of our alumni opt to send their children to other private schools because the facilities and academic education of today's Mfantsipim are no longer up to par.

It has therefore become our goal to ensure that the greatest second cycle school in the history of Ghana lives up to its reputation and history and once more become the most celebrated institution in our country.

To expedite this change, we are determined to think differently, alter our vision, and change the story and direction.

We will implement these changes by:

- Benchmarking the best second cycle institutions in the world and transferring best practices so that we can compete not just as a Ghanaian school but as a world class school.
- Innovate like this digital world we live in and cultivate great minds that have the creativity to transform this country.

In order to make these goals attainable, we require massive doses of sustainable funding that can only be accumulated by privatizing our beloved Mfantsipim whilst keeping these fundamental principles and objectives in mind:

- Mfantsipim is rooted in the history of Methodism in Ghana. It will therefore always be a predominantly Christian institution, following the best tradition of Methodism; it will however be open to accept students of all faith as it always has. Values and morality are fundamental to a good education.
- Mfantsipim should always be Ghanaian centered, as it has been in the past but it should now have an outlook of attracting people from all countries in the world, by offering an attractive brand of education based on its time tested values.
- Mfantsipim should always have a close and active co-operation with the Methodist church and MOBA. The church has to take an increased role in the school's affairs & MOBA has to work well on the national level, as it works on the year group level to help transform and maintain the quality of education.

- The fundamental shift in thinking however should be in the way the second cycle schools like Mfantispim are funded. Mfantispim does not need Governments direct funding. It has a brand that can be strengthened with improved quality of education, which will generate enough revenue to wean it of the approximately One Million Eight hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis Only (GHC1.8 million), that government gives the school annually, to assist and cater for 2,000 students, that is Four hundred and fifty Ghana Cedis per child (GHC 450 per student per year). By selling its unique brand and quality of education that people will want to pay value for. Government funding should be for brilliant but needy students, who attain the mark and pass a needs assessment test.
- MOBA & the Methodist church, should, as should all missionary schools, negotiate with the government to take the school back and run it as a non-profit institution, limited by guarantee, and provide initial funding to set the school on this path. In the case of Mfantispim this should come from MOBA contributions through the buying of shares & the Methodist church.
- MOBA worldwide should pay for a well-researched feasibility document produced by some of the foremost consultants in the world, a document that will establish a clear road map to achieve this. The fundamental objective being to restore Mfantispim to its rightful place, and to be a self-financing, non-profit, premier African second cycle institution.

It is our intention that these particularities that made us so extraordinary do not simply exist as part of our history but transition into our present and future.

A school that the brightest and the best in Africa will compete to study at, and are willing to pay for.

- Charging fees for those who can afford to pay value for money, and offering high percentages of its student scholarships, cross financed by the fees of those who can afford, and supporting this with a sustainable revenue generation model based on innovation, to be put in place by MOBA & the church.

To jumpstart this initiative whilst maintaining all the fundamental principles that make Mfantispim incomparable, we “Old Boys” have launched the “MOBA ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE RESTORATION OF MFANTSIPIIM” -

The aim of the fund is to raise USD10 million dollars in 5 years to finance the move of Mfantispim, to a non-profit institution, limited my guarantee and delivering a world class education accessible to all brilliant students of promise in Africa.



Old Boy Contributes to MOBA Endowment Fund

Mr. Roland Akosah of MOBA 1976, formally made a presentation of \$55,000.00 towards the MOBA Endowment Fund.

- This was the first installment of his pledge of \$100,000.00 made as Chairman at the 140th Anniversary Speech & Prize-Giving Durbar in 2016. Ebusuapanyin Capt Paul Forjoe received the donation on behalf of MOBA

"An Afternoon with Kofi Annan"



The "Ebusuapanyin's Lunch" was instituted to honour and showcase persons (not necessarily "Old Boys") who have made remarkable achievements nationally and internationally. It would also serve as an annual fundraising event specifically for the MOBA Endowment Fund.

The maiden edition dubbed "An Afternoon with Kofi Annan." was held at the Kempinski Hotel, Gold Coast City, Accra on Thursday 10th August 2017 with the late HE Kofi Annan (MOBA '57), former UN Secretary-General as the Guest Speaker. To honour the memory of this illustrious son of Kwabotwe we produce his speech on the topic "Leadership and Public Service"

Ebusuapnayin, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, Thank you for your warm welcome. I would like to thank the Old Boys Association for hosting this event. I am delighted to be here this afternoon.

I remember my time at Mfantsipim fondly, especially as I graduated from the school in the year the Gold Coast became Ghana. The promise of independence seeped into every lesson and discussion we had. As young students, we staged mock parliamentary elections between classes and debated the political issues of the day. It was a time of immense hope for Ghana, and for Africa as a whole.

Heroic young African leaders like Kwame Nkrumah and Gamal Abdel Nasser were prevailing over Western colonialism and

showing a bold and articulate face of Africa to the entire world. It was indeed a face and sentiment which mirrored that of the spirit and ethos of this great school during those years.

Monumental change became possible, and Africans were its catalysts. We felt strongly that we all could, should and would play our individual role in bringing about the changes we all dreamt of. A mere three years after Ghana's, seventeen more nations were granted independence in 1960. Our little country had been a trail-blazer.

In Swahili, they say that there is no sea without waves. In our modern history, the sea of change in Africa has been marked by several momentous waves in political, economic, and social progress.

1960 was the first wave. It was the year when the world recognised the growing vitality of African identity and aspirations. That vitality was tangible as postcolonial governments sought to unify the strength of the independence movements through consolidation of political and economic powers. Our continent seemed on the cusp. But as the tide rises, the tide too, falls. After a promising start, Africa was hit by a Second Wave, exacerbated by the Cold War of a promising new future in which we Africans would be the masters of our destiny after decades of colonial rule. The rival superpowers sided with various regimes and rebel movements, fueling a string of proxy wars in some cases and prolonging existing conflicts in others.

Our continent became a battlefield, characterised by civil wars, tyrannical military rule, human rights violations and deep economic stagnation. This political context fueled corruption, decreased food production, and massive indebtedness due to huge trade imbalances, economic mismanagement and the squander of resources. Above all, basic human rights, the rights for which Africans had struggled against colonialism, were trampled by most post-colonial regimes. Thankfully, when the Cold War came to an end, it ushered in a new period of hope in Africa. After an initial period of instability as the continent regained its autonomy, we witnessed a Third Wave of change.

Many Cold War influenced civil wars came to an end, and democracy gained ground. And more African governments were democratically elected. By the end of the millennium donors had forgiven much of the burden of debt that had saddled our countries for decades. By and large, governments across the continent improved their economic management capacity by the early 2000s. With the economy managed better private investment boomed in many .Countries and this coupled with transfers from the Diasporas gradually eclipsing foreign aid together, we set global development goals such as achieving universal education, fighting preventable diseases, and providing safe drinking water and made huge strides in these areas. This combination of changes set the stage for rapid aggregate economic growth of 5 - 6% for 15 years across the continent from the turn of the millennium and the 40%, fall in extreme poverty since 1990. But we cannot rest on our laurels: I am afraid I sense a Fourth Wave is gathering momentum. The period of fast economic growth came to an end in 2014, with the fall in commodity prices, and we discovered that the fruits of growth - the revenue - had not been invested wisely. We also realised that the continent still remained over-reliant on its raw materials, despite years of talk at the regional and national level of the importance of reducing this dependence. The crisis also revealed that the previous

economic growth had not been inclusive, and had in fact exacerbated the deep inequalities that characterize our continent.

Alarmingly, the economic picture is mirrored by the political one: Many countries seem to be backsliding on democratic gains. A growing number of presidents are changing their constitutions and subverting elections to remain in power indefinitely.

According to international watchdogs, democratic freedoms seem to be in retreat. Although governments organize elections, many lack integrity.

And many elections have paradoxically exacerbated identity politics, as unscrupulous politicians pander to

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ethnic and religious grievances and prejudices to mobilise voters in their favour. These developments are all the more serious given the size and expectations of our youth population.

African population will grow to 2 billion by 2050 and 4 billion by the end of the century. This demographic boom can be a blessing or a curse depending on the policies we adopt. But on current trends, there are grounds for concern. Our youth are better educated, more connected, and have higher expectations than any previous generation. But what are its prospects?

Every year, it hurts and shocks me to see thousands of our young people drown in the Mediterranean in search of a better life, because they do not think it is possible at home. It is profoundly

disturbing to see so many Ghanaians included on the 2017 count of migrants who attempt to make the dangerous crossing across the sand and sea to seek a new life in Europe. I am certain that if a time traveler from Ghana in 2017 returned to the Mfantipim assembly hall of 1957 with this news, there would be shock, silence and disbelief.

Ebusuapanyin, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, More than ever, we must harness the potential of our youth. This requires our countries to strengthen the three pillars of healthy and democratic societies - peace and security, inclusive development, and rule of law and respect for human rights. There can be no long-term peace and security without development. There can be no long-term development without peace and security. And no society can long prosper without respect for the rule of law and human rights. These pillars, taken holistically, must be the foundation of our development agenda.

The key to our continent's ability to chart the turbulent waters ahead will be the quality of our leadership. Africa needs courageous, persistent, and compassionate leaders who will tap into the continent's vitality to create a better future.

We need true democratic leaders who understand that they are at the service of their citizens, not the other way around.

Leaders must understand that they hold power in trust, from the people.

Unfortunately, Africa has had too few enlightened leaders of this kind. Part of the problem is that many countries have for too long invested too much power and hope in strong presidents.

Others have been misled by leaders who use this argument to prolong their stay in office, often indefinitely!

As President Obama pointed out, what we need are strong institutions. A leader must listen to what is said and importantly to what is not said. A good leader must also be a good follower. And when leaders fail to lead the people will lead and make them follow

In addition we need strong institutions. We need to think beyond the state. Strong businesses and strong civil societies to hold governments to their promises to the people will be just as important.

This continent's development cannot and will not come from a single leader, but from a collective groundswell of change and transformation. We each have a role to play as individuals, whether in our families, communities, or countries.

We must offer our growing young population the opportunity of employment. We must allow African youth to lead us into the future with enlightened modernity rooted in African values.

As we look to the future we must remember the youth of past leaders. Kwame Nkrumah was 48 when he became the first leader of independent Ghana in March 1957 and Gamel Abdel Nasser was 38 when he became Egypt's second President in 1956.

We must remember that one is never too young to lead nor too old to learn.

Today's leaders must ponder important questions: is the welfare of the people the paramount occupation, have we invested our revenues in areas that will benefit the people, particularly the young? Have we invested in a democratic Africa?

Mfantsipim, after all, means "a host of scholars for change". So many of us here were educated at a time illuminated by the hope of liberation and African revolution.

It is our responsibility, then, and our privilege, as Mfantsipim's old boys to serve our people and make progress towards our vision of a successful Africa;

There was a time when we played the roles of ebusuapanyin on the playground. Today it is our generation that is in charge. What have we done with that power?

Both the year of Ghana's independence, when I graduated from Mfantsipim, and decades later, when I stepped down from the leadership of the United Nations, I found myself full of hope for Africa and for our global home.

I am less optimistic today, although the pessimism of the intellect must be tempered by the optimism of will power.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are at a crossroads. The period of fast growth is over for the foreseeable future.

Many of our countries squandered the opportunities that this period of Super Cycle in Commodity Prices provided and today, have no choice but to pursue reform in straitened circumstances.

The decisions we take today, both in government and in business and civil society will determine whether the continent can ride the Fourth Wave successfully.

We cannot fail to meet our youth's aspirations with opportunity. More than ever, our future is in our hands.

A bright, African future is one that requires Africa's people as central agents. We must ride the wave that began long ago at independence to come together to affirm the way forward for the continent.

Thank you very much for your attention, and I wish you an enjoyable day.



(L) H.E. Kofi Annan in a chat with Dr. Andrew Arkutu ('55), who was the Chairman for the function (M) Capt. & Mrs. Paul Forjoe and (R) Very Rev. Casely Essamuah ('80) shares a few words before the opening prayer.



Mr. & Mrs. Annan pose for the cameras



(L) Joseph Amoo Dodoo ('54) Lockhart House Prefect in a chat with Mr. & Mrs. Annan (R) Ambassador Wig Brandful ('69) and MC for the event addressing guests.

Curriculum Vital

Many months ago, I watched a video or two on WhatsApp that got me thinking. It was one of those where a reporter walks up to a member of the public and asks the person the meaning of a word in English or asks the person to spell the word. It was a novel idea and I did not think much of it. This was then followed by a spate of them. That was when I started to question the point of the whole exercise. Was it to humiliate or embarrass the people? Some people were obviously not going to be able to answer the question whereas others, the student type, one would expect to have some idea.

For the student type, I thought it was an indictment of our educational system but on reflection wondered if I was not being too harsh. Standards in our public lives have fallen so why should education be immune to this. It is not their inability to understand a word or spell it, that bothered me. It is the glaring fact that it does not augur well for our country.

The President, H. E. Nana Akufo Addo has been accused of talking over the heads of people. That can be dismissed as being his and politicians lot. If a politician cannot get his message across because his language is verbose, that is one thing. But if the citizens do not understand him because their education is not up to scratch then in a way it is not just his lot but his and the citizens' duty to raise the bar. The delivery of the message is paramount by whatever means to the development of the country. I am not for a moment suggesting that the president speak pidgin English because even then, some people will still not get him.

If a politician cannot get his message across because his language is verbose, that is one thing. But if the citizens do not understand him because their education is not up to scratch then in a way it is not just his lot but his and the citizens' duty to raise the bar.

We need to make people comfortable in themselves and take pride in their languages.

In my days at Mfantsipim, I think we had one period every week of Ghanaian languages because in the great scheme of things it did not matter. In fact Latin had greater emphasis even though fewer students were studying it.

It could have all been so different if the Basel Mission in the Gold Coast had started translating and teaching maths in Twi before the British arrested and deported them accusing them of being German spies.



I have always contended that one of the stumbling blocks in the development of African countries is the learning of the language of the colonial masters.

The learning of the language is an unnecessary impediment in engaging the whole country. If you cannot speak English, in our case, what you can offer in terms of science for example is limited or non-existent.

The Chinese, the Indians, the Arabs have made the strides because the whole talent pool of their countries are utilised, there is no basic impediment of language.

Chinese post graduate students without a word of English have made strides in Britain and America. This is because to them, English is a tool whereas to us, English is an aspiration and a way of life. Language is not an innocent bystander in education. It is loaded with culture, values and aspiration. We learn English, we aspire to be Englishmen, even better Englishmen. To eat English food and ape English mannerisms while denigrating our own is the hallmark of civilisation in our eyes. We have a parliament that mimics Westminster with its confrontational politics. It has not occurred to our members of parliament how embarrassing they are. To be smartly dressed is to wear a suit, in the mid day African sun, with sweat to boot. It is time for new thinking.

You cannot turn an aircraft carrier on a six pence but you need to want to start to make the turn. Our curriculum need revisiting to take into account our changing needs.

The writer, Kwaku Akuoku ('76) resides in the UK

The Multimedia Group



Mfantsipim and the Ghana Armed Forces



Cadet Corps or Red Cross?

During his tenure as Headmaster of Mfantsipim (1949-1961), Mr F. L. Bartels was offered a choice between having a Cadet Corps or a Red Cross Society. He chose the Red Cross Society.

When I entered Mfantsipim in 1965, unlike Adisadel and St Augustines, we did not have a cadet Corps. It was therefore no surprise that Mfantsipim did not have an early presence in the Ghana Armed Forces. The Officer Corps was dominated by schools which gave their students early exposure to the military through their cadet corps like Achimota, Adisadel, St Augustines, Prempeh, GSTS, Tamale and Navrongo Secondary Schools.

Colonel Kabore

The change came in 1970 when as part of Career Lectures for Secondary Schools, then Major J. A. Kabore (later Colonel Rtd.) spoke to us. His bearing as a soldier, confidence and excellent command of the English language impressed us so much.

The effect was immediate! For the first time in the history of Mfantsipim, five students of MOBA 1970 successfully qualified for a new scheme of enlistment for potential officers by the Ghana Armed

Forces (GAF) called the Regular Officers Training Scheme (ROTS) at GSTS.

They were J. D. Antonio, M. O. Quashie, F. K. Sam, S. B. Antwi and D. K. Frimpong. Of the 40 students selected out of over two thousand applicants from schools all over the country, the five from Mfantsipim constituted the highest representation from a single school.

There were three from St. Augustine's Accra High School and Swedru, two each from Mawuli, St John's and Kpando. Other schools like Adisadel, Prempeh, Achimota, Bishop Herman, Asanteman, Osei Tweretwie etc. had one each.

Later, the Mfantsipim boys became Dr.

Jerome Antonio (Capt Rtd), Vice Admiral Matthew Quashie (Rtd) who became the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) and Maj Fred Sam (Rtd).

Brig Gen Dan Frimpong (Rtd) became Ghana's first Military Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the UN, New York, USA. Steve Antwi discontinued with the training after GSTS.

Ghana Secondary Technical School (GSTS)

The project involved doing a 2-year sixth form for our 'A' Levels at GSTS, Takoradi. It was initiated by the then CDS Air Marshal M. A. Otu. The objective was to produce officers for the GAF who were not only professionally competent, but also academically and intellectually sound. The GAF would sponsor them to the university, and bond them as career officers who qualified for retirement at age fifty-five! He wanted to convert GSTS into a Military Secondary School like the Nigeria Military Secondary School in Zaria, Kaduna.

Unfortunately, the scheme was discontinued after the 1972 coup. We were thus the only group that went through the scheme before entering the Ghana Military Academy after our 'A' Levels in June 1972.



The writer - Brig. Gen. Dan Frimpong (Rtd)



Col. E. D. F. Prah ('59)



Wing Commander Wooley ('57)



Wing Commander Brakohiapa ('57)

History - Colonel E. D. F. Prah

The first Mfantipim Old Boy to join the GAF was E. D. F. Prah ('59). Having been commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1961 with the first batch of Ghanaian cadets, Intake "1", in 1961 by Dr Nkrumah, he rose to become CDS. Incidentally the GSTS group which was commissioned in 1973 became Intake 15.

Others commissioned in the 1960's include Wing Commander Brakohiapa and Wing Commander Wooley both of MOBA 1957. The two were Osagyefo Dr Nkrumah's presidential pilots. Wing Commander Ametepe ('58) was an Air Force pilot just as Wing Commander Andy Mensah ('62).

Major A. Sam ('61) was an engineer with the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps. His mate Major W. Asampong belonged to the Corps of Signals. Their classmate Colonel Justus Van Lare (Rtd) became the first black Colonel in the British Army as a Medical doctor.

Lt S. B. Arthur ('62): 1967 Abortive Counter coup

On the down side, on 17th April 1967, Lt. S. B. Arthur led an abortive counter coup to overthrow Gen. E. K. Kotoka who overthrew Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's government on 24th February 1966. Lt. Arthur and Lt. Moses Yeboah were executed by firing squad for that coup during which Gen Kotoka was killed. Incidentally the coup in 1966 killed the Army Commander Maj Gen C. M. Barwah. Lt Arthur's other mates were Rear Admiral J. Y. Adoko and Commander George Hagan

Commissioned in the 1970's

Some Old Boys who were commissioned in the 1970s are as follows: Col. G. K. Wilberforce ('66), Col. T. M. Barnes ('66) and Col. N. N. Mensah ('66).

Others are Brig. Gen. R. O. Sackey ('68), Brig. Gen. J. D. Prah ('70), Capt J. B. Awuni ('71) and the late Capt. (Ghana Navy) S. Sam ('71). Gp Capt R. Forjoe ('72) served in the Ghana Air Force as a pilot.

International Service

Wing Commander Andy Mensah served as the Director-General of the Int'l Civil Aviation Organisation for West Africa. Brig Gen Dan Frimpong served as Senior Military Adviser to HE President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique - Special Envoy of the Secretary-General (SESG) of the United Nations for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)- Affected Areas of Uganda, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic. Brig Gen J. D. Prah served as the Chief of Staff in the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Sudan.

Conclusion

Since Col. Kabore's impressive Career Lecture in 1970 opened the gate to the GAF, Mfantipim has from the 1970s made steady significant contributions to the GAF. Notwithstanding our late entry, we have produced two CDS'S Col. Prah and Vice Admiral Quashie, Generals and Admirals, and very senior officers in high appointments. Admiral Adoko served as the Commandant Military Academy and Training Schools (MATS).



Vice Adm. Matthew Quashie (Rtd) ('70)



Brig Gen J. D. Prah (Rtd) ('70)



Commodore Osei Kuffuor ('77)
Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Command & the 2 Garrison Commander
Highest ranking "Old Boy" serving officer

Risky Business...

There is no hiding the fact that risk pervades finance much the same way that gravity pervades physics. It is risky when providing financial services of some sort, and equally risky when you are the consumer and are expected to make a decision on a financial product. In fact, there are numerous dimensions to financial intermediation, but none is more prevalent than risk. It is, indeed, a risky business!

So how risky is it? I will explain fully, shortly, but before that let me introduce the subject of risk in a far less serious way, by bringing in some humour. That way, I hope to make an immediate impact, if you follow the drift.

Tom Cruise is a well-known film star, isn't he? But there is an interesting story about his rise to fame- a risky one as such! Those in the know are of the view that in 1983 he took a risk with his career by starring in a romantic comedy film written and directed by Paul Brickman, who was actually making his debut as a director, that is, his first commercial cinematic release.

As fate would have it, the film launched Cruise to stardom, and his career became blissful after that. In this case, one can say that Cruise took a risk with his career, which paid off. But more intriguing too is the title that Brickman decided to give to his film: **Risky Business**.

And indeed, it was risk, all ways, for a young and talented Cruise to hedge his career on a film written and directed by someone who had not, at the time, proven special on the screens. Such is life and as the French would say: *c'est la vie*.

If you want to win the lottery, you have to first play!

Taking risk is something that we do every day. Eating can be as much of a risk like crossing the road! The weight of risk may be different but every element of risk is important and therefore the need for risk mitigating tools at all times. And these tools are not difficult to find, as we may either choose to accept the risk (consciously) or "share it" (like taking an insurance policy) with others. Doing nothing about it should not be an option.

Effectively managing risk is a sure way for businesses and individuals to survive. In the past few weeks, we have all had to pour over pages in the financial newspapers to get a sense of the public's perception of the financial sector, and indeed our economy. This unintended academic exercise, will continue for a lot longer simply because of the impact of finance on our lives.

Finance does move everything around us and as such the inherent risks cannot be ignored. We can only choose to ignore risks at our own peril. The truth is that financial matters dominate everything-unfortunately. To pay school fees is not about how much noise you can make by shouting from the



*The writer, **Bernard Otabil** ('88), a financial author, explains the importance of managing risks in all situations*

rooftop or how convincing you are with your arguments about whether the economy is good or not, but mainly about how much you have in the bank account to support such an obligation.

Finance matters affect what we do, every day. Waking up in the morning and driving through the heavy traffic that has become a feature of morning life in Accra is motivated by factors that include how the intended activity could impact on the pocket, ultimately.

It is therefore understandable to find people concerned about unacceptable behavior on the part of institutions and individuals who have been entrusted with public funds or even private funds that are to be paid back on demand. That financial intermediation role spoken about earlier.

So, to get you to appreciate the normal cycle that plays out in the finance world, let me explain, in lay terms, the risk and return relationship that influence financial decisions at all times.

As I stated earlier, risk pervades finance much the same way that gravity pervades physics. This, therefore, means that there are some risks involved in every financial decision that you make. For instance, even if you make the decision not to invest your money, there is that risk of losing likely interest if you had put it some “risk-free” assets, such as Treasury Bills, and other government issued notes.

On the other hand, too, are the risks involved when you take the decision to invest; the real risk of losing the money entirely, which will depend on the instrument that you invest in, and the opportunity cost, that is, the next best alternative that had to be given up because of the final decision that you had to make between alternatives.

Because opportunity cost is so important in understanding your daily decisions, let me spend some more time explaining that. Take the case of having about 100 cedis to spend in a week. Assuming that you have two items, each costing 100 cedis to choose from –items A and B- and you decide to go for B, the opportunity cost of having B is that you had to forgo A. The actual cost of the item is the 100 cedis that you will pay for it. I hope you have followed the drift on opportunity cost thus far? Great!

This concept is so important in economics for the basic reason that we cannot always satisfy all our needs. Whereas we have the penchant to own several items that we come by on a daily basis, we are limited by the resources that we have and therefore cannot easily fulfill that desire.

This then forces us to make the decision between A and B as explained above. Scarce resources indeed force us to make a choice at every given point in life.

Okay. So now that we understand the concept of opportunity cost at the individual level let us look at what risk is about, ultimately.

It is very easy to appreciate risk too. As explained earlier, risk pervades finance and therefore you must, at all times, assess the level of risk involved in the financial decision that you make before you commit to a transaction. Because we cannot easily wish away risk, there are several risk mitigating tools that one can employ to control risk, just as the physicist will use the best tools in mitigating the force of gravity.

I am sure you have once wondered, just as I did as a little boy growing up, why planes could fly and humans were extremely limited in that activity. The explanation falls in step with what one can do to mitigate the force of gravity because you cannot just wish gravity away, and do whatever you like.

Taking risk is something that we do every day. Eating can be as much of a risk like crossing the road! The weight of risk may be different but every element of risk is important and therefore the need for risk mitigating tools at all times.

In the same vein, that is what happens when financial institutions (and individuals like you) do not treat risk management issues with the seriousness they deserve, recognising that they cannot just wish risk away, and do whatever they like.

In the finance world, where risk management issues are not fully embedded in the operational activities of the company, so as to forestall potential problems, the company runs aground.

Let me give a little teaser here. Are you aware of recent reports in the various newspapers about some banks having high non-performing loans? Well, this could

mean that the banks do have what has been classified as asset in possibly their interest income account and yet these assets do not have the possible income stream to go with it. In plain truth, those who owe the banks are not paying and that non-payment has gone on for a considerable number of days, even months- to unacceptable period of dormancy. There are indicators that are used to annotate what should be classified in that category of non-performing.

The catch is this: Most loans go through a credit assessment cycle that may even involve Board approval, depending on the amount involved.

The Credit Committee of licensed and regulated financial institutions will take recommendations from credit officers and relationship managers on an application for a credit facility, following which the Committee will either approve or decline the application.

Here, it is the credit risk situation which must be properly assessed to ensure that all risks that can be estimated within that category of risk are carefully and schematically warded off. Failing this can lead to non-performing loans of alarming proportions and spell doom for the institution concerned.

With this in mind, I am sure that now you appreciate why some financial institutions may have severe challenges and others are doing well. It is surely not the case of “all financial institutions are bad” but rather the case that some may end up in a spot of bother, which could be due to a number of dislocations in operations, including poor risk management.

So, as you can say, controlling risk can be a shared responsibility, that is, when both the lender and borrower are disciplined in their thoughts and actions. Risk rewards, and punishes too. And, the Tom Cruise kind of luck may only accrue if you are ready and prepared for the risk. Indeed, it is a risky world of finance.

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Art Exhibitions at Kempinski Hotel...

During his tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations, H. E. Kofi Annan was presented with Art Works, mostly portraits of himself, by several artists all over the world.

One of the objectives of the “Ebusuapanyin’s Lunch” being raising funds, he and his wife Nane graciously donated 50 of these art pieces from his personal art collection to help MOBA raise funds for the endowment fund.

Two Art Exhibitions were held, the first one preceded the lunch at the Kempinski Hotel, Gold Coast City, Accra and the second was at the Berj Art Gallery in Labone.

H. E. Kofi Annan opened both exhibitions and emphasized that ““The gifts hold a special place in my heart and so does Mfantshipim School which helped prepare me for my journey. That is why I would like this collection to benefit the students of today in the hope that it will support and encourage them as they embark on their own journeys with their own hopes and dreams”



HE Kofi Annan officially opening the Art Exhibition at the Kempinski Hotel



HE Kofi Annan points out one of the Art Works to renowned Ghanaian Artist Victor Butler



HE Kofi Annan admiring one of the Art pieces exhibited



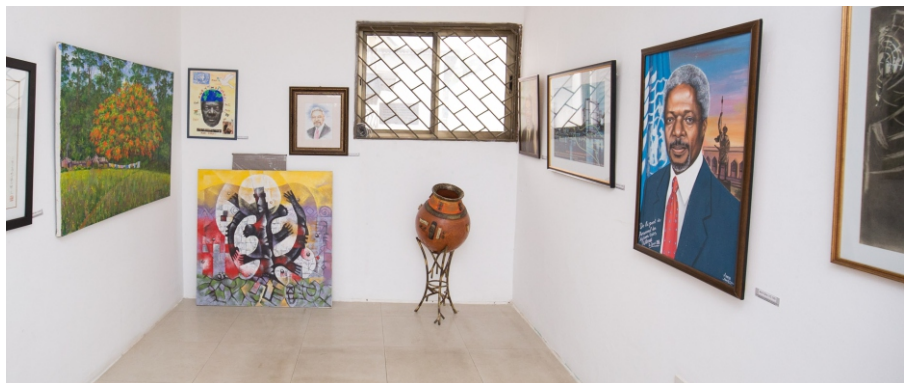
Patrons admiring the Art Works on display



...Berj Art Gallery



HE Kofi Annan officially opening the Art Exhibition at the Berj Art Gallery at Labone



Some of the Art Works on display at the Art Exhibition at the Berj Art Gallery



Patrons at the Berj Art Gallery, admiring the Art works

MOBA National Conference

The 2018 edition of the MOBA National Conference was held on Saturday 27th January 2018 at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Teshie with Dr. Andrew Anani Arkutu ('55) as the Guest Speaker.

The event saw the introduction of a Business Fair which had twenty-four (24) businesses showcasing their products and services.

Reports presented were from MOBA NEC, MOBA USA and Central Region, the School and the 2017 SYGs Speech Day Planning Committee. The Guest of Honour Dr. Arkutu spoke on the topic "My days at Mfantsipim, and what Mfantsipim means to me." In his address, Ebusuapanyin Capt. Paul Forjoe ('73) urged Year Groups to meet their financial obligations towards MOBA.

Fraternity messages were received from the Wesley Girls High School Old Girls Association, Presbyterian Boys Secondary Old Students Association (Odadee), St. Augustines Past Students Association (APSU), Accra Academy Old Students Association (Bleoo) and the Methodist Church Ghana. In attendance was Alfred P. Addaquay ('04) who led the "Old Boys" in the singing of the School song and hymn.

The Open Forum segment saw a number of "Old Boys" asking questions on issues concerning the School and MOBA. These were answered by The Headmaster, Mr. Odro and Ebusuapanyin.

The Conference is held annually to comply with Article 5 Section 1 of the MOBA Regulations and is open to all "Old Boys" of Mfantsipim.



Ebusuapanyin Capt. Paul Forjoe, Dr. Arkutu, Prof. Ofori Adjei and Mr. Manfred Odro (Headmaster-Mfantsipim) addressing the Conference



Old Boys listening attentively to the Reports



Very Rev. Riverson ('49) and Anis Haffar ('66) and our visitors from other Alumni Associations.



Group Picture of all participants at the Conference

142nd Anniversary Founders' Day Service



The Wesleyan High School started operating on Monday 3rd April 1876 with 17 students and James Picot who was only 18 years old as its first Headmaster.

The vision of the founding fathers was to instill in the boys mental discipline, honesty, moral courage and above all the character worthy of a Christian.

The School changed names several times. The original name was changed to the High School and Training Institution, then it became the Wesleyan Collegiate School, Richmond College and finally Mfantshipim.

Originally, the Sunday Service after the Speech & Prize-Giving Day was dedicated to the Founders of the School. However, during the tenure of Headmaster C. K. Ashun, 3rd April became Founders' Day and was marked with a special service with "Old Boys" traveling to Cape Coast, to join the School in the celebration.

This year's Founders' Day Celebration, held on Sunday 8th April saw "Old Boys", mostly from the 2018 Sponsoring Year Groups charter a bus to Cape Coast to participate in the service.

The Guest Preacher, Pastor Charles Ofori – Atta ('88) in his sermon, recounted the history of Mfantshipim and impressed upon the students that they had a part to play to bring change into society by 'killing' every giant on their way.

Basing it on the story of David and Goliath he said "God does not want you to live in the shadow of your giant, fearful of the future. Afraid to step out or speak up. Instead, he wants you to face your goliath. Live in victory, free to experience all of His blessings and live out the faith He offers you."

The celebration was rounded off with lunch at the PATO for both Staff and the "Old Boys"



MOBA - GEY HEY Gospel Explosion'18

For His mercies shall endure,
For His mercies shall endure.



It was all joy at the Covenant Family Community Church when MOBA and WGHS-OGA jointly organised a Gospel Concert dubbed MOBA-GEY HEY Gospel Explosion'18. The theme was "Let us with a Gladsome Mind, Praise the Lord."

The event, used to praise, thank God and celebrate products of the two schools in the ministry of song and word, brought together the likes of KODA, Nii-Okai Alfred Addaquay, Luigi Maclean, Naana Asiedu, Alexandrah, Frank Guildford and Jasher Taylor.

The audience were thrilled with Nii Okai's *Moko Be tomo bo, Nkwa Boodoo* by KODA and other very exciting gospel songs. Joyful Way Incorporated were present to deliver their usual show stopping performance.

Brief exhortations by Pastor Mrs. Stella Darkwa (Delightful Springs Ministry International) Nii Amankra Tetteh (Prince Emmanuel SDA Church) and Rev Albert Ocran (Christ Temple (ICGC) on specific topics preceded the main sermon.

Lady Pastor Dr. Joyce Wilson of the First Love Church (Lighthouse Chapel International) who delivered the sermon, touched on the need for Christians to avail themselves to be used as instruments for the Lord's service and charged all to 'do just a little bit more' in service to God and country.

Ebusuapanyin Capt. Paul Forjoe, explained that "This event highlights our Christian values borne from the Wesleyan tradition and showcases our Christian beliefs through worship, praise and thanksgiving and communing with God through songs and verses."

Mrs. Harriet Wireko-Brobby, National Vice-President of WGHS-OGA described the theme as very apt as it reminded us to praise the Lord and give thanks for all that we have.

The event brought together "Old Boys" and "Old Girls" of the two schools, their families and friends.



MOBA 2008 Year Group Inaugurated



The inauguration of MOBA 2008 took place at the Asbury Dunwell Chapel at the Wesley House (Methodist Church Ghana Headquarters) on Friday 25th May 2018. This is in line with the tradition of Year Groups becoming fully fledged members of MOBA, ten years after graduating; a time by which they are deemed financially fit to make contributions towards the development of both the School and MOBA.

Inaugurating the group at a ceremony in Accra on Friday, Captain Paul Forjoe (of MOBA 1973), the MOBA Ebusuapanyin, charged them to contribute selflessly to the development of the school that shaped their formative years. He said it was the responsibility of the 'old boys' to supplement efforts by the stakeholders of the school, if they wanted the school to be better than it was during their time there.

He said MOBA, in collaboration with the Methodist Church, that established the school in 1876, would launch an endowment fund this year, as part of preparation to reclaim the administration of the school from the government.

Mr Berifi Appenteng (of MOBA 68), former Managing Director of Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, TV Africa, Tv3 and Graphic Communications Group, who chaired the ceremony, urged members of the Year Group to continue being good ambassadors of the school.

As the mentor of the year group, the communication expert, advised them to be cautious of their life choices as they had great future implications.

President of MOBA 2008, Mr Clive Elliot-Mills, on behalf of the year group, pledged to abide by the association's constitution and honor the responsibilities bestowed upon them.

A minute silence was observed for two deceased members of the year group.



MOBA-USA Raises Funds for Endowment Fund for Mfantsipim



The MOBA-USA annual Fundraising Dinner Dance held in Martins Crosswinds in Maryland (MD) raised \$35,000.00 in cash and over \$150,000.00 in pledges.

The theme for the 3-day event chaired by the Synod Secretary for the North America Mission Diocese of the Methodist Church Ghana, Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah ('81) was 'Re-Engineering For Success'.

Mr. Pratt Abrokwa, President of MOBA -USA indicated that "Our priority this year is the MOBA Endowment Fund (MEF) and we plan to raise the needed money to be invested here in the US as seed money. He described as "encouraging the money raised at the Dinner Dance given that this is just our 2nd year doing this. We however remain confident in the fact that we will be able to hit our ultimate target of \$1M in a decade."

He explained that "We want to help not just with infrastructural projects within the school, but to ultimately free the school of dependence on the Ghana Education Service. Only interests from the MEF will be used to finance and maintain MOBA initiated projects at the school,"

Article 46 of the MOBA regulations mandates the establishment of an Endowment Fund. Seed money for the fund will not be touched but used as an anchor to grow funds over time. Only a portion of interests accrued from the invested funds (not principal) will be used on an annual basis for projects approved by MOBA National.

The Keynote speaker for the evening, Mr. Kojo Siaw Ofori-Atta ('82) asked the Board of Trustees for the MEF to prioritize and embark on an honest assessment of factors mitigating against the school's progress. He said "This assessment should be wide-ranging, from management, academics, student life, culture, resources, and counseling," this he believed will form the basis for the school to re-engineer itself for success.

MOBA National was represented by Assistant Secretary and Actg. Executive Secretary Kodwo Morgan. The oldest MOBA in attendance was 99 year old Charles H. Bartels of MOBA 1938 who becomes a Centenarian in October 2018.

The dinner, which highlighted day-2 activities of the 3-day event (day-1 was mostly for networking and records night) was preceded in the day by a round-table brunch session at Cape Coast Cuisine in Beltsville, Maryland. A joint family picnic and games closed the conference on day-3 that saw the Kwabotwe boys beating their rivals Santaclausians at both golf and draft board games. However, the Adisco Boys bounced back to win the soccer match.



In other News...

BOBA Rivalry Games

After years of Inter school rivalry, old students have found ways in their adult years of rekindling these memories not only for the fun of it but for networking purposes.

This was what started the Bleoo-Odade3-Botwe-Adisco (BOBA) Inter School Rivalry Games which begun in 2014 between Old students of Accra Academy, Presec, Mfantsipim and Adisadel.

This year's edition of the BOBA Games was held the on 6th March, at the Asamoah Gyan Stadium with Accra Academy (Bleoo) emerging as winners.



New Executives for MOBA 2001

Newly Elected Executives of MOBA 2001 were inducted into office for a 4-Year term on Sunday the 18th of March 2018 at the Asbury Dunwell Chapel. The oath of office was administered by Ebusuapanyin Capt. Paul Forjoe. In all, five (5) executives were sworn into office.

The new executives are Dr. Ken K. Amaniampong (President), Fiifi Y. Sam-Awortwi (Vice-President), Emmanuel Badger (Secretary), Mr Colbert Tagoe (Finance Officer) and Mr. Divine K.A Ackuayi (Publicity)

MOBA Golf Beat Adisco Golf to Lift Jonah Golf Cup

The rivalry between Mfantsipim and Adisadel was once again on display when golfers of MOBA and Santa defied the rains to turn up in their numbers for the 5th Jonah Golf Cup held at the Achimota Golf Club.

The tournament, a Match Play Duel, teed off at 8:00am with each team fielding 20 golfers. MOBA Golf defeated Santa Golf by 10-9 points.

The MOBA Golf team featured the likes of evergreen Mike Aggrey, Smyly Bannerman, Kojo Ansah, Dr. Asimenu and Kwadwo Ampomah among others.

The event attracted some dignitaries including His Majesty Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin (Special Guest of Honor), Sir Sam Jonah, the Patron of the event, the British High Commissioner H.E Ian Walker and South Korean Ambassador Kim Sungsoo.

In his remarks His Majesty Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin asked the golfers and guest to be humble in all their activities. The Patron of the event Sir Sam Jonah on his part thanked the event Organizers and the various Sponsors for putting together one of the best golf events the country has witnessed.



From Abompe to Oguaa...

My journey to Mfantshipim was very dramatic! I was born in Abompe in the Eastern Region very close to Osino. I started school here but by some divine intervention I was 'shipped' to Nsawam to live with my uncle.

Nsawam was home to many elite government and UAC workers. There were some boys who went to school at Mfantshipim in faraway Cape Coast. Even though I was not counted among the elite I played football and worshipped at the local Presbyterian Church with them.

When I had to select a school for my secondary education I opted for Mfantshipim. I passed both the entrance examination and the interview held in Accra. This was in the 1940s. Travelling from Nsawam to Cape Coast in itself was a spectacle.

Before Mfantshipim I never wore shoes regularly. As a Presbyterian living in Nsawam shoes were worn once a year for some annual ceremony. It was in Mfantshipim that I got accustomed to the wearing of shoes because it was mandatory to put on black shoes for Sunday church services.

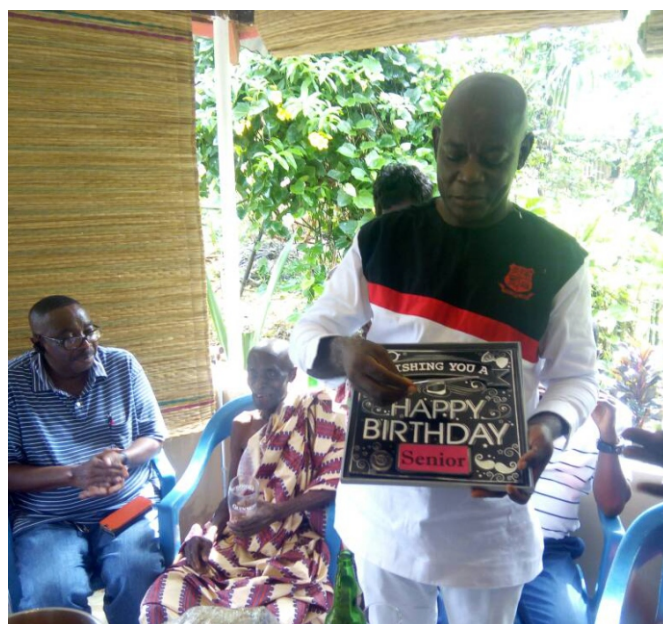
I was in Lockhart House. The routine, the teachers, the rigid Christian training and living the motto of Dwen Hwe Kan are my fond memories of Kwabotwe. Of course the dining hall was one of my most favorite places as relative to my home in Nsawam three meals were assured.

I left Mfantshipim in 1944 and got myself a job at the Social Welfare Department. After two years I went to the University of Ghana. Legon for two years for further studies. I came back to the Department and after five years I was sent to Manchester to deepen my knowledge.

As I went through all these courses, it dawned on me how Mfantshipim had prepared me for the world; discipline, sacrifice, living and working for others and holding on to your own talents and gifts.

I am ninety-eight years today, I have 11 children and I am glad that I took one of my daughters to Wesley Girls High School.

After working all over Ghana I came back to Abompe where it all began and at 98 I am still here waiting upon the Lord. On my return to Abompe I felt I had to support my community to put in place infrastructure for the improvement of life. I have been an Assembly member, was a Board Member for the establishment of the Community Rural Bank and the community Senior High School. At the moment I am putting together a gallery and a reading center close to my house to share the beauty of Africa, Ghana and Abompe while encouraging children to read. Whilst pursuing this agenda I live here and I eat from my surroundings. Everything I eat grows around me.



I am surprised, but very happy and grateful that because of me MOBA has sent you all the way here from Accra to decorate me and shower me with these souvenirs. In my joy I would like to show my appreciation by donating Ghc 500.00 to buy magazines and newspapers for the school library. Tell the boys that reading is key to a life of excellence. To all old boys here and others from other schools I tell you that in all you do be steadfast, develop the skill of speaking and dealing with truth for such and others did Mfantshipim send us out on our graduation.

Thank you very much for traveling this far. Look, we must sing the school Hymn.

This story is the outcome of a conversation between the National Organizer of MOBA, Charles Cobbina (1983) and Mr. Daniel Okyere (1944) in his village Abompe in the Eastern Region near Osino. This was at a party to celebrate his ninety-eighth birthday in June 2018

The “Yes We Cann” Campaign - MOBA 2004

In 2013, Thomas Vincent Cann (MOBA 2004) a resident of Cape Coast and an employee of TV3 was diagnosed with an End Stage Kidney failure condition. This meant that he needed dialysis treatment at least twice every week. MOBA 2004 initially raised funds to support his dialysis treatment in 2014 and 2015. However, in December 2017, we nearly lost him. His doctor at the Renal Centre of the Cape Coast Hospital advised that a kidney transplant was his only hope of survival.

The cost for the Kidney transplant was estimated at \$30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand US Dollars), \$ 25,000.00 (Twenty five thousand dollars) to cover travel expenses for both him and the donor and procedural costs in India and \$ 5,000.00 (Five thousand Dollars) as miscellaneous and contingency expenses.

MOBA 2004 through its own resources and contacts raised an initial amount of \$ 11,000.00 (Eleven Thousand Dollars) and another \$ 4,500.00 (Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) from two other individuals. We then appealed to the larger MOBA Community after a national appeal was launched on TV3.

To ensure accountability and to see to it that the entire process was carried out to the end Ebusuapanyin Capt. P. Forjoe and some NEC members held a meeting with MOBA 2004 to discuss the situation and the way forward.

The meeting agreed on a plan of action outlined below:

- MOBA 2004 would Report to MOBA on the genesis of the fund raising effort and the current situation
- Update the entire MOBA fraternity on the funding situation.
- Appeal for other sources or location for the kidney transplant other than India.
- Funds collected would be put into a US Dollar Account for it not to loose value until the target of US\$30,000.00 was reached. This amount will only be used for the kidney transplant expenses.
- Further fundraising to raise an additional GHS 4,800 (Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ghana Cedis) to cater for 2 months dialysis treatment in the hope that he would proceed for the treatment before the two months is up.
- NEC would monitor these accounts with MOBA 2004 to the benefit of the entire MOBA Fraternity.

The appeal to the MOBA fraternity yielded a total amount of GHS 117,316.74 from twelve (12) Year Groups. TV3 handed over an amount of GHS 20,000.00 to Mr. Thomas Cann for onward submission to the MOBA 2004 "Yes We Cann" Campaign Committee as total funds raised from the appeal through their medium.



The figures indicated that the campaign had raised an appreciable amount to take care of the procedure. Unfortunately, Thomas is still in Ghana undergoing dialysis treatment! The major challenge has been the issue of a donor. We have been able to put him on a list of people to get free transplant by a team of medical doctors from the UK. Unfortunately without a donor the procedure cannot be done.

MOBA 2004 is grateful to the MOBA fraternity for the immense support and ask that you continue to pray that Thomas gets a donor. God bless you all!

Contributors to the “Yes We Cann” Campaign

	Year Group	Amount
1	1969	14,000.00
2	1980	6,000.00
3	1989	12,000.00
4	1997	5,000.00
5	1999	11,055.00
6	2000	4,000.00
7	2001	14,252.00
8	2002	13,800.00
9	2003	1,750.00
10	2005	14,059.74
11	2006	15,400.00
12	2007	6,000.00

Milestones (1st January - 30th June 2018)

Awards

Moses Aristophanes Kwame Gyasi ('65)

- *The Institute of Internal Auditors (Ghana) has honoured Mr. Moses Aristophanes Kwame Gyasi with its highest award, the "Gilbert Ohene Dokyi Outstanding Personality Award" for his outstanding role and commitment towards the growth of the Institute of Internal Auditors (Ghana)*

Appointments

Very Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah ('81)

- *Selected as the next Secretary of the Global Christian Forum which brings together Traditional, Ecumenical, Evangelical and Pentecostal churches.*

Kweku Andoh Awotwi ('76)

- *Appointed as the new Managing Director of Tullow Oil Ghana Ltd.*

Transition

Old Boys

1. **Kofi Antwi ('84)**
2. **Dr. Lawrence Atta Kwasi Takyi Ofosu ('70)**
Head Prefect: 1971/72 Academic Year
3. **Michael Ehun Arthur ('94)**
4. **Nana Owusu Agyemang (MOZO) ('76)**
5. **Edward Martey Kofi Plange ('72)**
6. **Nana Ayitey Sam ('90)**
7. **Kofi Bentum Wilson ('86)**
8. **Prof. J. O. Mensah**
9. **Dr. Ing William Kofi Sam ('57)**
Former PNDC Secretary of Works and Housing
10. **Timothy Kpakpo Akwei ('61)**
11. **Lt. Col. H. W. A. K. Sackeyfio ('43)**
Former tutor at Mfantsipim and one of the Founding Fathers of Ghana National College
12. **Emmanuel Joseph Okyne ('47)**
13. **Rotimi Femi Pearce ('97)**

Present & Former members of Staff etc.

1. **Rt. Rev. Ebenezer Kodwo Dadson – 86 Years**
Former Chaplain & Teacher at Mfantsipim
2. **Mrs. Martha McCullough Mae Wright.**
Wife of Mr. N. O. Wright who served as Bursar at Mfantsipim.
3. **Mr. John Jude Kwamina Annan**
Former History & Fanti teacher at Mfantsipim

The "Big" Race

by Paa Kofi Freeman Amponsa-Dadzie

One of the greatest track event at the Inter-Colleges (Interco) Athletics Competition in Cape Coast was the 100 Yards race ran at the St Augustine's College park in 1968.

Inter-Co was a popular Inter Schools Athletics Competition held annually and had become a Festival of pomp and pageantry, promoted by enthusiastic teachers and Sports Administrators.

St Augustine's College had a sports recruitment policy that ensured that the school recruited top Sports Stars, some of whom even featured for some of the National Teams. They dominated soccer with the great Goalkeeper Robert Mensah of the famous Cape Coast Mysterious Dwarfs.

For the town dwellers and adventurous kids, sporting events were glorious and memorable occasions.

In athletics, St Augustine's had a sprinter called George Daniels alias Jupiter from Amanfu, Cape Coast. He was a top sprinter and had beaten all who competed with him. He ended the reign of Mike Ahey and dominated the sprints in Ghana, Africa and the British Commonwealth. In the 1972 Olympics he got to the semifinals. Jupiter was a handsome burly black guy who run like a cheetah. During relays, would come from behind to beat everyone. He was a phenomenon and many athletes were afraid to run against him.

The rival girls schools then were Holy Child College and Wesley Girls High School. The real competition was however, between three great Boys Schools: Adisadel College, St Augustine's College and Mfantsipim.

That particular year the support had reached a crescendo and the noise was deafening, especially from the Mfantsipim boys. ALBINO...A-L-B-I-N-O! AlbiiiiiiiiNooo! No one had heard of Albino before except the Kwabotwe boys. Albinoooo!!!! They shouted. The Kwabotwe boys were possessed!

Then appeared this bespectacled handsome fair-coloured boy with his back heel not touching the ground pacing around the perimeter of the Stadium. George Daniels was furious because the talk doing the rounds was that Albino would beat him...How?

Small wagers were made on the side by many spectators. Betting was then common amongst students who had money. They could bet on anything. It was an opportunity for boozing, sweet music and lovers and wannabes to meet. Kwabotwe sang... "Hɔn na obotum Albino...abeile...SokooHmmm."

Then heats of the 100 yards race was called heats. Albino was in the first group and the Master Runner, Jupiter, in the second group...Adisco always had good sprinters until Jupiter came and dominated the sprint races.

At the blast of the starter's gun, Albino shot ahead of the group like a hare. His free flowing run, style, grace and poise were breathtaking and had never been seen before.

He touched the finishing rope first and strolled to the huge cheers of the Mfantsipim boys who all broke through the lines to hug and embrace him.

The second heat saw George Daniels run the race of his life leaving the other competitors almost halfway down the tracks. Between the heats of the 100 Yards was the 800 yards race. There was a marvelous Weleε, Mfantsipim's 800 Yards runner who was a National Athlete. He won with style and sent the whole stadium in an uproar -- Weleε!

Saturday, the D-day came and the Stadium was full by 11:00 am. Cape Coast town folks were there in their numbers when they heard that Albion Mends was also from Cape Coast.

It was too much that day at St Augustine's College. Jupiter versus Albino was a huge event for the history books. St Augustine's flew their green flag and went full throttle to support their National hero, Jupiter. Adisco was already leading in points and were very noisy. The place was agog with excitement. Kwabotwe was the loudest!

Something was going to happen at all cost from what Mfantsipim was doing, even at the third position on the score table.

They sang loud that they were there for ONE EVENT - the 100 Yards. The Red Flags were flying and Albino was pacing and jogging round the park with George Daniels and his Athletes following. Then the race was called! It was the 100 Yards dash for Glory and the spectators were held spell bound: The huge crowd suddenly fell silent:

"Get Ready...On Your Marks, Get Set....GO!" Albino shot off like a spear and flew off with George Daniels following...It was like a war. Albino won't be caught in this fast race...he ran as if it was for his life, chased by Jupiter.

Jupiter would catch him they shouted...but he never caught Albino as he broke the finishing rope and hurled it above his head towards the Kwabotwe boys who descended the dais against every order to stop. They threw themselves on the ground shedding tears of great joy.

They had seen Albino running in the Inter-houses and believed that he would end the reign of Jupiter. Everybody was left dumbfounded.

They had a good time that day but they did not see Albino anywhere again...and sometimes they thought he was a spirit that came and left... Jupiter went to America and came back to form Great Republicans Colts Football Team in Cape Coast to produce top footballers.

Later we got to know that Albino was actually a local guy. His 'family' was from Kawanupado/Turom of Oguaa Kusubentsir Fie like Kofi Daniels from Amanful Esiw Enyim!

That was a race!!!

GHC
150



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Invitation

MOBA USA

THANKSGIVING SERVICE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018

SERVICE TIME: 12:00noon - 3:00pm (EST)

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General meeting and Refreshments
will follow after the service from
3:30-5:30pm

THANK YOU MOBA USA

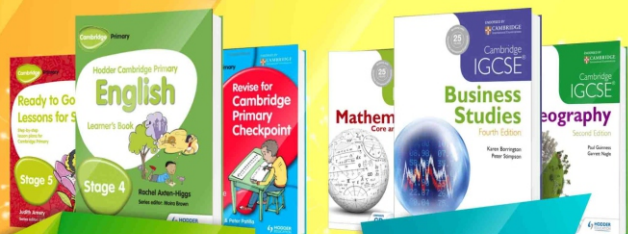
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