



Marymount

International School, Paris

PRESS RELEASE

Neuilly-sur-Seine, April 26th, 2017

Transcript of Mrs. Johanna Bambridge's, Head of School, Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 13th RSHM International Sports Festival

TRANSCRIPT START

Welcome dear RSHM Sisters, dear colleagues and students from all RSHM schools, family members and friends.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to our Opening Ceremony of the 13th RSHM Sports Festival. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all participants and physical education teachers and coaches. It is their strong commitment to sports, athletics and team play, which adds to the development of our young people and it is the reason we have all gathered here in Paris for these 5 next days.

I especially want to applaud our own Coach Barbeau who has coordinated this event twice in the three years I have been head of School. His positive attitude and commitment, as well as his excellent planning skills, speaks of his understanding of the RSHM philosophy of coming together with the purpose of sport, fun and most of all, praising God for our successes and failures.

As a school, Marymount, Paris has dedicated this past school year to the RSHM goal: To Create Unity through Diversity – I see no better way to compliment this school goal than with this special event. A diversity of students – from countries all over – are here together to compete in a sports tournament. With this goal, Marymount, Paris is committed to making sure that during this week, we will

Create an atmosphere of respect, forgiveness, openness and joy for all of you.

Marymount, Paris is sensitive to the diverse talents, abilities and needs of each one.

Marymount, Paris nurtures positive and co-operative working relationships among and between students, parents, administration, faculty and staff.

We will celebrate and share our diverse cultures and national traditions to enhance international understanding especially during this tournament.

We will build and maintain positive relationships with all our new friends and all our network schools.

72, boulevard de la Saussaye · 92200 · NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE · France
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Now, I am certain that we will witness athletic performances of the highest quality over the course of this championship. So do your best and compete in the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. But take the opportunity to come closer to each other – to look for the similarities in one another. Take time to get to know some of our brothers and sisters from other schools and unite in friendship, fun and lots of good laughs. It does not really important to win but rather it is important that we win new friends.

Certainly, each of you will pit your skills and talents against your opponents from other teams. But I encourage you to also make the most of this wonderful opportunity to showcase not only your best athletic talent but also a spirit of comradeship.

Jesse Owens, the legendary American athlete who won four gold medals in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, once said, "Friendships born on the field of athletic strife are the real gold of competition. Awards become corroded, but friends gather no dust."

I know I speak for the other Heads of School when we give special praise and congratulations to the Sports staff, which has exposed you to rigorous practice sessions. Their efforts have contributed in raising the overall standard of school sports competitions and building stamina. I think few will dispute that sports make you strong, healthy and teach us to accept defeat and celebrate victory. But these lessons later become building blocks of success in life, too. Skater Kristi Yamaguchi understood this when she reflected:

"An athlete gains so much knowledge by just participating in a sport. Focus, discipline, hard work, goal setting and of course, the thrill of achieving goals. These are all lessons of life"

Finally, as we were building excitement in this community and encouraging people to embrace the spirit of this tournament, we also had the practicalities to manage and we could not have accomplished this event without the cooperation and collaboration of the extremely generous Marymount Paris families. In the coming days we are going to see some very exhilarating moments and I encourage everyone to enjoy it. Fun and excitement are guaranteed but remember that none of this would be possible without the generosity of so many people who usually remain behind the scenes – especially our parents! Thank you dear families!

In conclusion, I wish each and every one of you a wonderful week here in Paris. Thank you for participating in a big way or a small way. Thank you for believing in the importance of our network joint ventures and for being here on our campus.

TRANSCRIPT END

About Marymount International School, Paris

Marymount International School, Paris is an international, private, Catholic, co-educational school offering an internationally recognized, standards-based curriculum to students of all faiths, aged 2 to 14 years. Marymount was founded by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) in 1923. Today, it is the oldest international school in Paris and a member of the RSHM Network of Schools, which includes 19 schools and a partnership with several missions in Africa. Marymount is accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Middle States Association (MSA).

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