



Redpath
CONNECTING THE REDHILL ALUMNI COMMUNITY

ISSUE - December 2023



#RedhillForLife

www.redhill.co.za



Dear Redhill Alumni,

A massive THANK YOU to each one of you for the unwavering support you continue to provide to Redhill School. Your presence at our events, especially the Redhill Sports Festival and Redhill Arts Festival (#RedFest2023), continues to add immeasurable vibrancy and spirit to the school community.

One of the highlights of our year was undoubtedly the recent CLASS OF 2013 ten-year reunion. It was such a wonderful opportunity to host former students, hear about your remarkable achievements, and witness the positive impact you're making in various fields. Your success stories are a testament to the excellence fostered at Redhill many years ago and serve to inspire future Redhillians to strive for greatness.

We are eager to strengthen our ties with our alumni community further. Your expertise and experiences are invaluable resources that can greatly benefit current students while allowing you to leave a lasting legacy on the lives of others. I encourage you to get more



involved in the school community – both in and outside the classroom. Feel free to reach out to Mrs. Deborah Hele (dhele@redhill.co.za) for more details on how you can contribute and make a lasting impact.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming more alumni into our growing network!

Warmest wishes,

Joseph Gerassi
Executive Head

“ I look forward to welcoming you back on Campus soon! ”





Dear Redhill Alumni,

We're just about to call 'that's a wrap!' on 2023, so, as our academic school year comes to an end, it gives us such pleasure to present the final Alumni Newsletter for the year. As you peruse this edition, we hope that you enjoy the triumphs and challenges that the pages contain and relish in the sense of community that our alumni society provides.

2023 seems microcosmic of the incredible bond that we share as Redhill alumni. The world ticks on with changes ever-present, but one constant is the inspiration and support we find in Redhillians both past and present. Years ending always come with reflection and so, with fondness, we look back at our shared history and look with excitement to what the future holds.

Just as the world is ever-changing, so too is Redhill. These pages contain our latest updates on campus. If New York is the city that never sleeps, Redhill is surely the campus that doesn't either. The same commitment to academic prowess, research and innovation that marked your time at Redhill still runs in the veins of the school, keeping the legacy alive and well, focused on tomorrow with all the promise it brings.

#RedhillForLife




Deborah Hele
Alumni and
Communications Officer

 alumni@redhill.co.za

3

dates to diarise



Redhill Marketplace

A platform for Redhill School parents and alumni to promote their products and services.

There is no charge to advertise.

Please email communications@redhill.co.za to advertise.
#RedhillMarketplace#RedhillCommunity

Follow @redhillmarketplace on Instagram

SAVE THE DATE

BOYS AND GIRLS | HOCKEY | NETBALL | RUGBY SEVENS

REDHILL SPORTS FESTIVAL 2024

FRIDAY 31 MAY | SATURDAY 1 JUNE | SUNDAY 2 JUNE

www.redhillsportsfestival.co.za



Alumni WEEKEND 2024

will take place during

REDHILL ARTS festival

25 - 28 JULY 2024

A great time to visit campus to reconnect with old friends.



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**Every gift makes
an immediate
and lasting impact.**

Gifts to the

Redhill Foundation

represent not only support for the next generation of Redhillians, but also a belief in our collective future – one that is even more connected, collaborative and impactful.

Email alumni@redhill.co.za for more information on how your donation or gift can make a difference.

**We thank you for your
continued support.**

“

*do small things
with
Great Love*

- Mother Teresa



Alumni Stories



Bronwyn Blignaut

(Teacher at Redhill School)



A little about me:

I am an accomplished educator with a Post Graduate Certificate in Education for Foundation Phase and Early Childhood (Cum Laude, 2013). I hold a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Criminology (2011) and achieved a Matric exemption from Redhill School in 2007.

I've had the privilege of teaching at esteemed institutions including Pinnacle College and Bryandale Primary School, where I've covered various subjects and played integral roles in student development.

I'm dedicated to creating nurturing learning environments, and my diverse experience reflects my commitment to shaping future leaders.

In what year did you matriculate at Redhill?

I matriculated in 2007.

What inspired you to come back to your alma mater as a teacher?

This school has always maintained an exceptional standard of education and prides itself on staying at the forefront of educational trends. It truly feels like returning home. The campus boasts picturesque grounds and impressive buildings, and the school is in a constant state of growth and evolution. Becoming a part of this dynamic environment is a privilege I hold dear. I'm eager to give back and be a positive influence on the students, just as my own teachers were for me. It's an honour to play a role in shaping the future of this esteemed institution.

What grade are you teaching, and what do you most enjoy about teaching them?

I am currently teaching Grade 5. I enjoy their wit, growing independence in their work, and the emergence of stronger opinions, as they eagerly express their viewpoints.

How has your experience as a student at Redhill influenced your teaching approach?

It taught me the importance of personalised attention and cultivating a love for learning. The high standard of education also instilled a drive for excellence in me, which I aim to share with my students. The dedication and passion of my teachers at Redhill continues to inspire me in my own teaching practice. Overall, my time as a student at Redhill guides me in creating a positive and engaging learning environment for my students.

5

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Alumni Stories

Alumni: 2018 >>> Tia van Loggerenberg

We are absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news. Tia graduated from Durham University this year with a BA (Hons) in Education Studies with an outstanding achievement and was honoured with an academic award as valedictorian, recognising her as the top student.

Her educational journey continues, as she's now headed to London for her Master's programme at University College London.

We wish Tia all the best in this exciting new chapter of her academic pursuits.



Alumni: 2021 >>> David Kariuki

We are so proud to feature one of our remarkable alumni, David Kariuki, who embarked on a mission to share his passion for AI with the next generation. He recognised the potential that lay within the minds of young students and felt the responsibility to nurture their interest in the field.

This drive led him to establish the AI Society at UCT, where like-minded students could come together, learn, and explore the possibilities of AI.

However, David's impact didn't stop at university. He has understood that real change can only be achieved by extending this knowledge further. Thus, he and a group of passionate students have taken the initiative to mentor students at Redhill School.

David, we are so grateful for your continued support of the school and investment in our students!

6

Alumni: 2022 >>> Clover Hatchuel

Clover, known for their dedication, passion, and relentless pursuit of excellence, has successfully navigated the challenges and triumphs of their journey at DoJo. Their commitment to personal and professional growth, coupled with a tenacious spirit, has culminated in this remarkable achievement.



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We were delighted to welcome back Alumni to witness our annual Handover Assembly in July.

Wakiuru Mbutia (Deputy Head Girl, 2018) • Thomas Hele (Student President, 2021) • Rachel Hertz (Head of Committees, 2021)
Yadaf Deeplaul (Spirit Master, 2022) • Lilitha Kakana (Head Girl, 2018) • Nathan Crosby (Head of Communications, 2022)
Cannen Raiz (Student President, 2022) • Emma Malan (Spirit Master, 2022) • Nicolas Hattingh (Head of Committees, 2021)
Joshua Lawrence • Nash Foggitt • Jacek Michaluk



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The Class of 2013 Alumni Reunion was held on a lovely summer afternoon on the 14th of October on the Redhill Campus. It was a happy and heartwarming gathering that brought former classmates back together. Alumni were treated to a walk down memory lane as they revisited their old haunts, shared stories, and rekindled old friendships. Laughter filled the air as graduates reminisced about their school days, and connections were re-established throughout the event. The reunion was a perfect blend of nostalgia, making it a cherished memory for all.

Reunion 2013



Redhill Class of 2013



Reunions in »» 2024

For reunions in 2024, we have significant milestones to celebrate: a 10-year reunion for the Class of 2014, and a 20-year reunion for the Class of 2004. To get the planning process started, please reach out to Deborah Hele at alumni@redhill.co.za, who will be delighted to assist you in organising these memorable gatherings.

www.redhill.alumnet.co.za

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Campus Highlights of 2023

REDHILL ARTS festival

The Redhill Arts Festival is an annual event held on the Redhill Campus, that celebrates a wide range of artistic disciplines, including visual arts, performing arts, music and more. RedFest is known for its diverse and innovative programming, featuring both local and international artists. RedFest is a weekend event that offers festival-goers the opportunity to enjoy a variety of experiences.

In 2024, mark your calendar for **#RedFest2024**, scheduled from **26 - 28 July**. Be sure to set aside these dates for an exclusive Alumni entertainment area, providing you with another chance to reconnect with fellow alumni. If you're interested in contributing to the coordination of this event, please don't hesitate to contact us via email at alumni@redhill.co.za.



#RedFest2023



MUSIC FEST



THEATRE



FAMILY



ARTISANAL
MARKETS



Campus Highlights of 2023



Heritage Day Celebrations



#SameSameButDifferent

Our Redhill community celebrated Heritage Day to the fullest on Friday, 22nd September, a day where we all came together to celebrate our rich diversity. This year, we united under the banner of #SameSameButDifferent.

A combined assembly took place with singing, dancing, a cultural parade, and a panel discussion. In the evening, our Grade 8s ended the day with a Heritage Picnic, where diverse heritage stands sold international dishes.



HOME OF THE REDS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - AN ULTIMATE ALUMNI REUNION!

Join us for a thrilling weekend of exceptional sports, including the very best inter-school hockey, netball, basketball and Rugby Sevens! In addition to sports, we've got something special lined up: a curated beer and gin tent experience all weekend. Don't miss this chance to meet old friends!

BEER AND GIN TENT!



SAVE THE DATE

WE ARE
NEEDING
YOUR
SPIRIT
SUPPORT!

FRIDAY
31
MAY

SATURDAY
1
JUNE

SUNDAY
2
JUNE



Questions? Email: alumni@redhill.co.za

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Campus **Highlights of 2023**

Grade 12 Academic Assembly

Our Grade 12 academic assembly is a special event designed to recognise and celebrate the achievements and academic excellence of the graduating class of 2023, and this year was no exception. Inspirational addresses were made by the Senior School Head, Executive Head, and outgoing and incoming Student Leadership.



12

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Introducing: Mrs. Marina Prozesky

New Redhill Senior School Head



Mrs. Marina Prozesky has extensive international experience, having worked in leadership roles at various schools (including international IB schools) around the world. These include the Canadian International School Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Suzhou International Academy (China), Dulwich Shanghai (China), Unidad Educativa Leonardo Davinci (Ecuador, South America), and Masan (South Korea). Marina is passionate about Continuous Professional Development and is currently completing her second Master's Degree (Educational Leadership), having already completed a Master's in Linguistics in the United Kingdom. She describes her leadership philosophy as being, "Communicate your vision clearly, create a culture of learning where high standards are the norm, and combine that with excellent relationships with staff."

Transcript of Address from Mrs. Marina Prozesky at the Academic Assembly:

"Good morning,

We think that stories are shaped by people. I believe it's the other way around. Stories are how we evolved to understand our place in the world before we had written language, how we passed on lessons for where to find food, or what threats were coming for us, or how to build relationships within our tribes and our families. In Africa, we have an amazing culture of oral history through storytelling.

So, you might be wondering how stories link to a prize-giving...bear with me.

A lot of research has been done on the brain and stories and there are a few different things that happen when we listen to a good story. The first thing is that, when we hear a good story, our brains light up. The neural activity in our brains increases fivefold, and because there is so much activity, we tend to remember stories a lot better than when we hear facts. Isn't that just fascinating? Well, if I haven't blown your minds yet, here is another fact— when we hear a good story, the neurochemicals oxytocin and dopamine are released, so we literally feel good simply because we listen to stories. Still not convinced...phew, you're a tough crowd. OK, here goes. When we listen to stories, our neurons fire in a way referred to as "neural coupling", or mirror neurons. So our brain mirrors the neurons of the storyteller to the extent that we are effectively putting ourselves in the shoes of the storyteller, whilst empathising with the main character.

Introducing: Mrs. Marina Prozesky

So all this reading about the brain on stories got me thinking...if stories that other people tell us can affect us so profoundly, how about the stories we tell ourselves?

Now, I was very pleased with my line of thought until I realised, after a bit of research, that it really wasn't that original. In fact, thinkers were already considering this in 583 BCE with quotes like "We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make our world". Well, I can tell you that that discovery caused my inner story to change from "how original you are" to "well, well, really not as clever as we thought, hey!"

So, today is prize-giving day, a day to celebrate your achievements, and again you might be wondering why I've been going on about stories and telling yourself stories for the past few minutes. Well, it's because we are constantly telling ourselves stories, with a little inner voice that plays a big role in the thoughts and dialogues we have with ourselves. So, in actual fact, we are essentially writing stories in our minds about ourselves all day long, and these are very powerful.

You see, up to a point a person's life is shaped by environment, heredity, and changes in the world about them. Then there comes a time when it lies within their grasp to shape the clay of their life into the sort of thing they wish it to be. So, in order to be here today, receiving awards for amazing achievements, you were writing and shaping your story. I imagine you had a clear ending in mind – to be on this stage today. Sometimes, in this process, I imagine that your story was a horror story – you had to sit down at your desk and do the work, even though you could probably think of 100 things you'd rather be doing. Maybe it was sometimes a mystery, because you simply couldn't crack a Maths problem. Maybe it was even a story of time travel,

where you wished you could go back in time and do better at a test or make a different decision that would have resulted in a different outcome. But most of all, I think it is an epic story about a heroic protagonist who, in the face of challenges and adversity, pushed through and achieved the goals they set out to achieve. And the result is your being here today, being celebrated for your determination, your resilience and the self-discipline you had to display to stand on this stage.

So, this prize giving is the end of a chapter, but it's also the opportunity to continue your autobiography. The story that you are writing as we speak. You have in your hands the potential to continue on this journey of greatness by displaying the self-discipline, grit and resilience that enable you to stand on this stage and receive your prize today. You have it in your hands...all you need to do is continue writing the story not of your life, but for your life. The story with the outcomes that you wish for it.

Steven Moffat once said, "We are all stories in the end". So I wish for you that, from today, your story be an adventure novel with just enough romance, where brave young people take on the world confidently and come out stronger on the other side. May your story be a fantasy where dreams come true, where good overcomes evil and where the protagonist is a phenomenal young person who understands their incredible potential and works hard at realising it every day. May your stories be sci-fi, where you set out and actually reach the stars. But, more important than the type of story you write...is to pick up the pen. Write your story as it needs to be written. Write it honestly, and tell it as best you can. You have it in your hands.

Thank you."

Breaking news: Redhill opens a new Early Learning Center in 2024.

Redhill's Reggio Emilia-Inspired Approach to Early Learning Breaks Ground

Architect Asher Marcus, from Hubo Studio, and Sue Pilkington-Williams, the visionary head of Redhill's Early Learning Centre, have embarked on an exciting and innovative collaboration to build Redhill School's Early Learning Centre. This groundbreaking project aims to create an ideal learning environment that fosters creativity, imagination, and holistic development for young children. The construction of the centre has recently commenced, and it is scheduled for completion in Term 2 of 2024, generating much anticipation among parents, educators, and the wider community.

Why Choose the Reggio Emilia Philosophy of Learning:

The Reggio Emilia approach has gained significant popularity worldwide among parents and educators searching for the best educational opportunities for children. This Italian educational philosophy, founded by Loris Malaguzzi in the town of Reggio Emilia, focuses on the idea that children possess a hundred different languages through which they learn, see, and experience the world. The Reggio Emilia-inspired teaching method seeks to create an environment that allows these innate languages to be unleashed and celebrated in children.

After extensive research, Redhill School chose the Reggio Emilia philosophy because it embraces wonder, imagination, and creativity as essential elements of the learning process. This child-centred approach emphasises experiential learning, collaboration, and the integration of arts, music, movement, and language to create a multi-sensory

learning experience. By respecting each child's individuality, interests, and capabilities, the Reggio Emilia philosophy promotes a sense of community, social interaction, and shared responsibility - an ethos that resonates deeply with the African concept of ubuntu.

Architectural Vision and Design:

To ensure this philosophy of wonder and imagination would be echoed in the learning space, both Marcus and Pilkington-Williams travelled to Reggio Emilia to learn and transfer these insights back home on South African soil. Architect Asher Marcus and his team at Hubo Studio have wholeheartedly embraced the Reggio Emilia philosophy to design a learning space that functions as another teacher, facilitating the educational process rather than serving as a static backdrop. Marcus focused on the process of learning, rather than solely on the final product, by immersing himself in how children learn and incorporating those insights into the design.

The design of the Early Learning Centre is purposeful and carefully considered. The spaces are designed to be multi-purpose, encouraging the sharing of resources and materials and challenging traditional modes of early learning, which often confine children to a singular classroom. The concept of "ateliers" was a priority for Marcus - an atelier being a dedicated space for design, investigation, and expression. These ateliers include the sightscape, flightscape, thinkscape, and soundscape, offering children various tools and materials to explore and engage with throughout their day.

Different spaces within the Early Learning Centre cater to different activities, mirroring real-life scenarios. Some areas are designed for quiet, independent learning, while others are intended

ELC Building - PRESS RELEASE



for collaboration and community-building. Reggio Emilia philosophy emphasises that children do not need an abundance of resources but rather symbolic representations and access to nature. In line with this principle, Marcus and Pilkington-Williams designed a park within the centre, incorporating elements such as running water, trees, and vegetable gardens. These natural features surround the centre and are accessible from every space, promoting children's learning in the most natural and holistic way possible.

The architects have carefully considered sensory elements, such as sound and light, to optimise the learning environment and stimulate the children's

senses. The interconnectedness of the various spaces allows for movement and an interplay of space and function. Each space within the Early Learning Centre is unique, ensuring that no two areas are entirely alike. Pilkington-Williams believes that the centre will "slow down learning" and counter the fast-paced, conveyor-belt approach to education that often characterises many schools. It is designed to be a versatile space, dynamic and ever evolving to meet the needs of the students as they arise. The completion of the building and the transition into the centre will mark the beginning of an ongoing journey, where the children and teachers co-construct the learning and exploration.

16



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ELC Building - PRESS RELEASE



Community Engagement and Symbolism:

In accordance with the Reggio Emilia philosophy, the Early Learning Centre at Redhill School will serve as a communal space for learning and sharing, extending its impact beyond the immediate school community. The vibrant mosaic adorning the exterior of the centre, designed by a local artist, will not only showcase the African connection to Reggio Emilia but also symbolise the power of unity and collaboration. Each fragment of the mosaic, unique and beautiful on its own, represents an individual contribution, but when combined in the right pattern and placed together, it forms a cohesive and captivating work of art - a metaphor for the collaborative spirit and collective strength of the learning community.

The construction of Redhill School's Early Learning Centre is an exciting collaboration between architects and educators, aiming to create a unique and inspiring space for young learners. With a deep commitment to the Reggio Emilia philosophy, the centre will provide an innovative educational experience that honours the individuality and potential of every child, promoting a love for learning and a lifelong curiosity about the world. The completion of the Early Learning Centre will mark a significant milestone in Redhill School's mission to provide exceptional educational opportunities, setting a new standard for early childhood education in South Africa.

Looking ahead:

In line with Redhill's strategic aim to identify key staff who can add significant value in mentoring other teachers, the school recently sent four teachers to the Reggio Emilia Conference in April. This opportunity allowed them to immerse themselves in the philosophy and gain valuable insights into its implementation. Equipped with their newfound knowledge, these teachers will now take on the role of mentors within the school, sharing their learning and supporting other staff members in further implementing the Reggio Emilia philosophy throughout the Early Learning Centre.

Looking ahead, Redhill has ambitious plans to contribute to the broader education community. In 2024, the school intends to host a national education conference within its new Early Learning Centre. This conference will serve as a platform for educators from across the country to come together, exchange ideas, and explore the latest research and global best practices in early childhood education. By showcasing innovative approaches and facilitating meaningful discussions, Redhill aims to contribute to the advancement of the field and inspire positive change in educational practices nationwide. The state-of-the-art Early Learning Centre will provide an ideal setting for this conference, embodying the principles of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and serving as a living example of its potential impact.



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Coming Soon: Redhill School Digital Archive

Redhill has embarked on a resource that will hold significant importance in the preservation of the school's history, which includes documents, yearbooks, photographs, and other artefacts. It will safeguard Redhill's legacy for future generations. Many historical records could deteriorate over time, however, digital archives can easily be

preserved and accessible for years to come. As alumni, our digital archives can be remotely accessed to explore the school's history and heritage. As former students, a digital archive will provide a platform where alumni can reminisce, reconnect, and stay informed about the school's activities.

We will be announcing the launch of our digital archive SOON.

Coffee AND CONNECTIONS

Oceans and social distancing are no barrier to staying connected with your fellow alumni.

Lost touch with a former classmate? We are happy to help. Email alumni@redhill.co.za with the name of a Redhill alumna/nus or with any questions you may have, and we will try our best to connect you. Or if you would like us to set up an informal, virtual coffee morning for a specific topic, we are happy to 'host' a video conference for you. One of the few silver linings in a time of travel restrictions and isolation has been learning the value of relationships and networks, as well as discovering alternative communication channels. Regardless of whichever platform you may select, **Coffee and Connections** is a great way to rekindle or start personal and professional relationships within the Redhill community; its ultimate aim is to continue lifelong learning about topics of interest, connect with alumni and staff and eventually meet physically over a warm coffee!



Where are you and how are you doing?

Here at RedPath we love hearing news from our old Redhillians and friends of Redhill around the world. Whatever your news, we know your classmates would love to hear it – whether you have moved to a new country, have a new job, got married, had children, won an award or any other snippets of interesting news!

To register or to update your information please log on to our Redhill Alumni Portal.

REGISTER/UPDATE

or email alumni@redhill.co.za with your news.

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