

ISSUE - February 2022









Dear Redhill Alumni,

To say that it has been a busy start to the year is an understatement. What a pleasure to have a Campus filled with students without the threat of lockdown hanging over us, while also being cautiously optimistic about planning camps, tours, major productions, sports and arts festivals in the coming months. If the past two years have taught us anything, it's the power of community and making memories wherever possible.

January also saw the release of our Class of 2021 Matric Results, which were outstanding! As you may already know, Redhill is the only school in South Africa to offer students the option of graduating with either an IEB Matric or International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma. The fact that our Matric class is split in two makes it very difficult to benchmark Redhill's results against other schools, but our Class of 2021 exceeded our expectations:

* IB students achieved an exceptional average point score of 37 out of a potential 45 in their final exam. In addition to these extraordinary results, five of the 18 students achieved a score of 40 points or more, placing them amongst the top students in the world!

* IEB students achieved a 100% Bachelor Degree pass (university entrance). 35% of students received an A average and above, and 76% students received a B average and above.

An astounding 86% of students received at least one distinction.

On Campus, we continue to take our "Free To Build" motto quite literally! Our dedicated Redhill Music School is complete and in full use by students, our High Performance Aquatic Centre (complete with a 10-lane 25m floodlit swimming pool and 3-story gymnasium) is on track to open in the second term of this year, and our Early Learning Centre has been demolished to make way for a brand-new state-ofthe-art facility that will see younger students learn, play, think, create and thrive in years to come.

At our core, Redhill School remains committed to helping our students become the best possible versions of themselves, and to building a strong community of both past and present Redhillians and their families.

> 66 I look forward to welcoming you back on Campus soon!



Joseph Gerassi **EXECUTIVE HEAD**



Editors Letter



Dear Redhill Alumni,

As 2021 turns into 2022, we reflect on how far we've come, as individuals and as a wider community, making 'community' the perfect theme for 2022.

As we welcome our Class of 2021 into our Redhill Alumni community, we want to say how proud we are of your accomplishments and we want to commend you on persevering through unthinkable challenges over the last two years. We know you will do great things as Redhill Alumni.

We were delighted to host our Class of 2011 onto campus in the spring of last year. This year, we are looking forward to welcoming back classes that will be celebrating their milestone anniversaries. These will take place at this year's Redhill Arts Festival (#Redfest2022). As such, please save the date (29-31 July) so you can jou us for a weekend of celebration and reminiscing. Please email me at alumni@redhill.co.za on how we can assist your class with a 2022 reunion celebration.

In this issue, we have some lovely stories from Alumni who are spread across the world. We would love to hear more on how Redhillians are living their lives with their families and loved ones. These are the stories that bind us together and make us feel part of a larger community. Please share your story with us at alumni@redhill.co.za.

I hope you enjoy reading our first issue for 2022. To make sure you are amongst the first to receive news and event invite, why not **update your details** so you can stay connected?

Until next time,



Deborah HeleALUMNI OFFICER

alumni@redhill.co.za

Changing Lives

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





Emma Anderson Nee Skinner

CLASS OF 2003

Email me: emma@atyourownwhisk.com



Former student Emma became a published author this year. Her book gives readers a behind-thescenes view into the reality of serving in the hospitality industry. She started working in pubs, bars, and restaurants as a temporary measure to earn money and have fun whilst studying for a

prestigious degree in sound. She found herself stuck there, all the while observing all around her and learning, despite some loathsome tasks. Her sense of humour and resilience served her well. She recounts some cringe worthy incidents in her book, some appalling behaviour from the public and questionable catering practices but she endured it, not realising that it would provide the backdrop for her real calling in life.

It wasn't until she was stuck in the twilight zone of being a new mother that she started to grab moments for herself; it was at that time that she discovered writing. She wrote about what she knew best, herself and her experiences; in time, words turned into full stories and eventually morphed into a novel.

She told us, "Part of my driving force was one person who told me I could write - Mrs Audrey Buskin, my English teacher at Redhill. I'll never forget the day

she told me I could write. I never thought I was good at anything. I still can't catch a ball, nor run very fast. I've written the dedication to her. I hope one day she reads it and overlooks my grammar and incorrect use of adverbs."

The book is called **Things** I've Learnt Whilst Working in Hospitality (Some People are Just Arseholes). Apologies if you've gotten so far and I forgot to mention the language warning.



Available to buy online



Cameron Rowley

CLASS OF 2016



We were BLOWN AWAY when we saw one of our ex-students and alumni, Cameron Rowley in the UK's Evening Standard described as a future thinker.

Cameron in 2021 was named Inaugural Designer of the Future by the Conran Shop for his One-**Step Ladder.** He was selected from 97 other entries for creating an elegant object that facilitated brief use whilst maintaining a smaller footprint. At £40,000, the Designer of the Future Award is the highest-value award in British design and was launched in 2020 by Sir Terence Conran. Together with a paid internship and cash prize of £3,000, this investment will be used to develop and market Cameron's design into an exclusive retail product. Congratulations, Cameron!

Please come visit us when you are next in South Africa.

Click here to read more.

Paige Bach (Stroobach)

CLASS OF 2010

Email me: pstroobach@me.com



We love following the journey of our Redhill students, even after they leave our campus!

Redhill alumnus Paige Bach (Stroobach) is an accomplished actress and writer in California. She debuted under the lights on live television in 2011, on the X Factor. Since then, she has appeared in several television shows and has also contributed as a writer.

She is particularly known for Blairsden, The Assignment (2013) and Improv 101 (2017).

In 2020, she accepted a leading role in the movie A Royal Christmas Engagement while, off screen, she also tied the knot. A busy year, congratulations Paige!

John Buck

- CLASS OF 1999

Email me: john@scwf.shop



John has been an enthusiastic listener of RedRadio and wrote to us in support of this and to share his journey since matriculating in 1999 and leaving for sunshine and opportunities abroad.

"Australia was a good move for me, I have been happily married for 15 years, and blessed with two children. We are trying to ensure they receive as good an education as I did at Redhill.

The foundation that Redhill gave me was exemplary - I excelled through my bachelor's degree while managing our family business on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. I would not have been able to do this without the knowledge and experience Redhill offered me; I wasn't the best university student, as I was also working, but the skills from high school got me through university in stellar fashion.

A big shout out to Redhill, the teachers from - 1999; especially Ben Brooks - headmaster at the time. He was exceptional in the support he

gave me during my recovery from

Redhill School

a life-threatening impact by a car whilst I was cycling home from Eftihia's Yiannakis' house (1999 Head Girl).

I was resuscitated at Sunninghill Hospital and in a coma for a month; 18 months of physio, occupational and speech therapy followed before I could walk or talk — and then I started Matric. The love, prayers and community of Redhill got me through and, with hard work, the support of Mr Brooks', along with all my teachers, I finished in the top 8% of IEB maths students in 1999.

Since then, I achieved a Bachelor's degree in Management and Marketing, MBA & Master of Professional Accounting, two Masters degrees, I was CEO of a company which we grew to IPO level from 2012 to 2018, and since returned to being small business owner of two local companies; Sunshine Coast Washers & Fridges, as well as Chill Design Furniture; we are settling on a third business now, Pancake Manor, a restaurant which I intend to franchise throughout Australia in the next five years.

Life has been good to me and my family, but I would not be anywhere near where I am without the wonderful Redhill high school education — and the love and support, I enjoyed from all the Redhill staff and my family. I loved high school, will never forget the great care, and love I was given throughout my time at Redhill... even though at times I might not have deserved it."

Cassidi **Beck**

CLASS OF 2013



Cassidi Beck nominated and chosen as a Youth Action Fellow for the "Together Remember Coalition". Fellows are identified as leaders on the rise who are engaged in community and ready to make positive change. The non-profit organisation fosters collective memory of survivors of identity based violence and inspires collective action to counter division, disinformation and hate. In a broadcast with The JHGC's (Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre), education officer Mdu Ntuli speaks with Cassidi about her role as a young leader and the message she shares about leadership, democracy, and the responsibility of making choices in South Africa but also abroad

You can listen to the interview here online, via SoundCloud.

Listen here

https://togetherweremember.org/

Sibusiso **Gumede**

Email me:

thepatisseriehobart@gmail.com



A slice of Paris in Bryanston Sweet (pun intended!) to read about the success of former student Sibusiso Gamede in becoming the proud owner of his own patisserie in Bryanston. Simply named 'The Patisserie', this initiative stands as the realisation of a vision, rooted in tremendous work and dedication. The 23year-old pastry chef ambitiously began trading in 2019 but, when the restrictions and challenges of Covid began to impact trade, bravelv downsized relocated to smaller premises, in the Hobart Grove Shopping Centre. In a notoriously cutthroat industry, Sibusiso has achieved great success, mainly through his self-belief and resilience. It is wonderful to see someone who is truly creative and is able to anticipate with a good business head. The décor in his store is as decadent as his pastries. macaroons and desserts: pink walls, chandeliers, floors styled in classic French black and white complemented by a matching awning.



He was recently quoted in The Sandton Chronicle modestly rebuffing his achievements: "At times I feel like jumping off the rooftops! I barely get any sleep, I'm always buzzing around and yet, I wouldn't change it for anything in the world," he said. When asked if he is proud of what he has managed to achieve at such a young age, Gamede responded "I haven't had the time to sit back and think about it; it's just go, go, and go."

So much vision, energy and talent... you go, Sibusiso Gamede!

Mark Kobrin

CLASS OF 2000

Email me:

marc.kobrin@gmail.com

Marc Kobrin is fighting back and reaching out a helping hand to others after a difficult couple of years. Marc graduated from Redhill and went on to complete a business degree at Johannesburg University and then specialise in



business management at Wits Business School. It was during the last few months of his postgrad diploma in 2007 that Marc began to have some unexplained health symptoms which were inconsistent with a healthy and active young man. Upon advice he went through various tests but was optimistic and slightly in denial, playing soccer with classmates the day before an MRI scan which would go on to identify two brain tumours. Marc's busy life was put on hold, assignments paused, interviews

postponed, and it would be years before he would be physically active enough to play sport.

Marc's diagnosis was complicated and difficult to treat, he was treated with cortisone and then daily doses of radiation. He was gravely ill whilst his body rejected and fought. It wasn't until April of the next year that his body could repair nerve damage and he could learn to walk again. In June 2008, Marc successfully graduate with his diploma. He now works in property management, is closer to his family and appreciates many of the small things perhaps easily taken for granted. Mark actively, both physically and mentally, helps fund raising and promotes awareness for a variety of health causes believing he can instil hope and help others. In April last year he completed a 100km cycle ride over 3 days raising money for the South African Guide Dogs for the Blind. Believing in his strong ability to instil hope and help others, Mark actively, both physically and mentally, helps fund raising and promotes awareness of a variety of health causes.

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!





2011 Classmates Reconnect and Reminisce

CLASS/2011

In the spring of this year, we warmly welcomed a cohort of 2011 students onto the Redhill campus to reminisce, remember and celebrate friendships. They gathered, listened to a welcome address from our Executive Head and toured the campus. By evening, as they mingled over finger food and drinks, they felt the familiar Redhill

magic and were excited to hear the school is expanding to accommodate more students who will be able to share in the same experience. A momentary pause to reflect, share knowledge, consolidate, and offer support and inspiration to today's students. We enjoyed sharing every moment with them.















SAVE THE DATE

29 - 31 JULY 2022

#redfest2022



Alumni Mookond

- >>> 10th Reunion (Class of 2012)
- **20th Reunion** (Class of 2002)
- **30th Reunion** (Class of 1992)
- **40th Reunion** (Class of 1982)
- >>> 50+ Reunion

www.redhill.alumnet.co.za

Come Celebrate with Us!

We warmly welcome classes back to **Redhill School** to celebrate the

milestone anniversary of their graduation,

and in 2022 celebrations will be held over the weekend of RedFest 2022 (an annual Redhill Arts Festival that seeks to provide young artists and performers with a platform to display their work).

This year's festival will be hosted from 29 to 31 July. Redhill Arts Festival at Redhill School is our favourite time of the year, when our alumni family returns to revisit favourite campus spots, reunite with friends and classmates, and re-live the traditions and memories that make the Redhill experience so uniquely special.

Join us for your 2022 Alumni Weekend, 29 to 31 July, 2022!

Follow this event by keeping keeping an eye on Redhill's Arts Festival website

www.RedhillArtsFestival.co.za

the schedule and programming information will be released in the coming months.



NEW/COMING SOON!

NEW: Interactive Redhill Heritage Walks

Enter through those famous curlicue iron gates, cast your eyes across sweeping manicured lawns and up the warm bricks of Redhill. Take a trip down memory lane, and discover what remains from your school days. Does it seem smaller, now that you are an adult? You will detect the main historic building still at the heart of the school, but step just beyond... and fourteen years of carefully planned modernisation reveal an impressive and exciting campus. We are embracing the future, yes, but it will always be underpinned by a legacy of knowledge and values that stretches across more than a century. Juxtaposed within our state-of-the-art facilities. you'll notice the old office block re-designed in the traditional rondavel style - celebrating the personal journey of country, our school and of each generation passing through those gates.

But we are far from the end of the

story! As you know, the Redhill motto "Free to Build" dictates on-going investment in the development of our students, in preparation for an ever-changing world. As well as innovative teaching methods, continual assessment and training, we strive to create an environment that supports and prepares students for the next part of their journey. In this regard, the Redhill School Campus 2025 - The Legacy Campaign is a project that resonates our commitment not just to current students but also to those still to follow. For more information and ways to donate keep reading and/or visit

http://www.redhilllegacycampa ign.co.za/

Virtual Tours

These can be accessed either via the Redhill Heritage plaques which contain a QR code or by following 'Go Digital'. Visitors using the 'Go Digital' alternative will enter a contentrich webpage with a variety of



information delivered in formats that accommodate reading, listening and viewing. This online version includes some focal historical aspects of the school, such as Len Miller Hall, Staff Room, Starfield Studio, Redhill Music School, and Outspan Field.

Redhill Heritage Walks

For those of you fortunate enough to visit the campus physically, organised walks will take place on the last Friday of each month. Commencing in June 2022, bookings can be made by emailing dhele@redhill.co.za.



COMING SOON: Online Redhill Shop

We are thrilled to announce that the establishment of an online store is underway, where a truly great selection of Redpath quality clothing and accessories will be available. Redpath clothing, reflecting our school colours and spirit, will include ready-to-wear t-shirts, sweatshirts, hooded tops and polo shirts. In addition, we have also identified some more traditional items - cuff links, ties, scarves, wall plagues - that will be available for purchase.

Alumni, we hope you will show your support by wearing all things Redpath.





continuously. How can we possibly expect our students to uphold the school values if we don't. Offering both the IEB Matric and the IB Diploma is challenging, and we are proud of both teachers and students for rising to this. The exceptional results give us confidence in our choice to offer and deliver both.

IB Results

Overall Class of 2021 achieved an average point score of 37 out of 45 which secures them access universities in the UK and USA.

Five of our students achieved outstanding results which place them amongst the top performing students in the world.

IEB Results

Each and every student achieved a 100% Bachelor Degree Pass enabling them to access university. Many finished with higher than average scores, A and B with 86% of students receiving at least one distinction.



(Bachelor Degree pass)

of students received an A average

76% of students received a B average

35% of students received a B average

13% of students received a full house

86% of students received at least one distinction





Redhill in the News

Redhill continues to focus on giving the best education and creating a lifelong passion for learning among pupils. Read our pieces making the news, highlighting our magnificent school with a rich heritage.

Redhill School Olympiad ranks internationally

(Sandton Chronicle)



Redhill School Executive Head Joseph Gerassi stands proud with bronze medallist Abigail Davies, Redhill director of curriculum and assessment Michele Marnitz and geography teacher Nicole Wilmot. Photo: Supplied

Abigail Davies' hard work and preparation paid off when she represented South Africa and took home a bronze medal.

Redhill School learner Abigail Davies flew the country's flag high in the recent International Geography Olympiad (iGeo).

The virtual Olympiad, hosted by Turkey, saw learners from 46 countries undergo a number of tests.

Abigail's hard work and preparation paid off when she represented South Africa and took home a bronze medal. [Read more]

OPINION | Joseph Gerassi: Let's remove Life Orientation from Grade 10, 11 and 12

Parent (news24.com)

Desperate times call for desperate measures, and the current educational crisis is no exception, says Joseph Gerassi, Executive Head of Redhill School.

Below he shares his "radical solution" to recovering the teaching and learning time that's been lost so far since the pandemic began.

As an educator, I am conscious that it may take us years to truly understand what learners worldwide have lost to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. It may also take the education system years to recover. [Read more]

"The end of the road?' How to cope with disappointing matric results Parent (news24.com)

There may be a lot riding on your matric results, which are to be released this week, but it is important to understand that some students may not receive their desired outcomes.

This may largely be due to the pandemic's unforeseen challenges that the class of 2021 went through, which included other uncontrollable external factors such as the KZN looting and load-shedding that disturbed their focus while studying for their matric examinations.

With this in mind, News24 spoke to Joseph Gerassi, Executive Head of Redhill School, about how learners and parents can deal with disappointing matric results. [Read more]



Building for the



Campus 2025 - The Legacy Project is an aspirational four-year project aimed at creating three highly innovative venues that will see the Redhill Campus utilised to the fullest for the coming 50 years. Not only will our current students benefit from using world-class facilities to the fullest, but we the project, will leave a lasting impact on the lives of future generations who follow in their footsteps.

Our three brand-new state-of-the art venues include:

• A state-of-the-art **Sports Precinct** (including a HighPerformance Aquatic Centre,
new student cafeteria, rugby/
cricket field, basketball courts

and coffee shop)

- Renovation of the Auditorium.
- Transforming our old library building into an **ultramodern high-tech iHub**.

This is most certainly one of the school's most ambitious projects in the 114-year history of our magnificent motto, "Free to Build"!

It goes without saying that the magnitude of this development will demand considerable financial commitment, one that the school alone cannot meet without support from its loyal community. While we are fortunate to be able to meet the costs of Phase 1 of the project, we would be most appreciative of any support from our larger

Redhill School community to facilitate the completion of the entire Legacy Project by 2025.

This is a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting impact and legacy at a School that has been a "home away from home" for so many students by donating in honour of a family member, or student who has thrived during their time at the school.

Such a donation will leave lasting footprints on the Campus and on the lives of our students for the next fifty years.

For more information and ways to donate









Legacy Project

by 2025.



REDHILL goes the distance

FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

A big thank you to alumni who contacted RedRadio during the 15-hour marathon broadcast that happened between August 5th and 6th. A cause for celebration on many levels, it was the team's final broadcast before matriculating and they raised a staggering R50,000 - more than three times the initial goal of R15,000! - for the Angel Network (The Angel Network is a non-profit organisation; it is not affiliated to any one charity, but aids established welfare organisations, whenever and wherever help is needed. They have created a gateway for giving, enabling, facilitating, and mobilising acts of kindness).

For the marathon broadcast, students had two fundamental to broadcast objectives something bigger than themselves and to create a highly immersive experience with the community they had nurtured over the last few years. They realised the station was only as good as its rapport with its listeners, so the event was a fitting closure marking the relationship with the listener. Among many highlights, several regular guests and speakers from standout interviews were invited to join them again. It was an ambitious project, requiring meticulous planning and the commitment of 12 presenters and 5 producers R50 000
We vaised...:)

R15 000
Our target ...

to coordinate, and its success reflected the unstinting support that RedRadio has received from the Redhill School community over the years.

Programming Manager in 2021, Thomas Hele, thanked the school for allowing the station to grow freely: "The [Redhill School] management has never tried to format RedRadio to fit their agenda. We were given the liberty to make mistakes, learn and hold institutions. including Redhill, to account." In addition, Thomas commented that his RedRadio career would forever be an unforgettable and immensely treasured stage of his life: "RedRadio has been my everything - the power of radio to mobilise change, inform and develop opinion is remarkable and second best to nothing. I leave RedRadio knowing that it will continue not only to be a voice for the youth but also to make tangible differences in the communities around us."

Redhill School Executive Director Joseph Gerassi remarked on his amazement at how far RedRadio had come since the launch four years ago: "It is astounding to see learners embracing real world initiatives and growing beyond what was initially envisioned."





CLICK HERE TO VISIT RedRadio



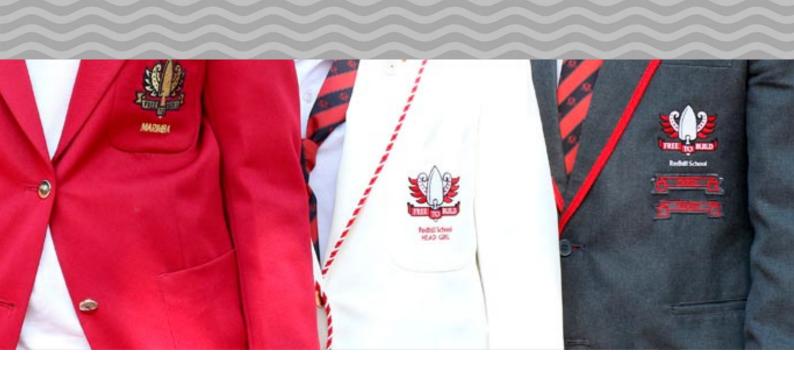
2021 Sporting Highlight for Redhill



Soccer Team

Massive Congratulations to our Redhil Junior girls Soccer Team who not only won the Junior Soccer Finals in October, but who also remained unbeaten throughout the entire season.

FREE TO BUILD
Redhill School





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 it be that 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 logon to our Redhill Alumni Portal

REGISTER/UPDATE

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