



RedPath

CONNECTING THE REDHILL ALUMNI COMMUNITY

ISSUE - March 2021



www.redhill.co.za



MATRIC
Class of
2020

Redhill School
INNOVATE • EDUCATE • CONTRIBUTE

#redhillforlife





Dear Redhillians

I have often thought that the Redhill halls echo with the sounds of the feet of the thousands of students that have walked them before me. It's both astounding and humbling to think of the number of children who have walked in and out of the Redhill gates over the years, sat concentrating at our desks, thumbed through books in our School Library, sought shade from the hot summer sun under the trees on our fields, and proudly sung the School Song in the Len Miller Hall. Redhill's greatest strength is its students – both past and present. It is for them that we work tirelessly to provide the best possible foundation on which they can build their future, and for them that we strive to create a home they will want to come back and visit.

I have never been one for regrets – and choose instead to see opportunities for learning. That being said, were I to go back in time and change one thing at Redhill School, it would be to have created a strong Redhill Alumni body over 50 years ago. But as the well-known Chinese proverb says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

I would therefore like to warmly welcome you to RedPath, Redhill School's official Alumni Newsletter – a platform that I hope will help you reconnect with both the School and the many people that helped influence and shape your life during your time on Campus. This termly publication will include



Joseph Gerassi
EXECUTIVE HEAD

“

I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life.

”

- John F. Kennedy

interviews with past students; updates on weddings, births, promotions and travel; as well as news on upcoming events, festivals and reunions at the School.

We would love to hear from you and would welcome your sharing the newsletter with friends and family that have connections with the School. And it goes without saying that should you wish to visit the Campus at any time, we would welcome the opportunity to give you a tour and hear more about your time with us.

My warmest wishes,



Welcome



A warm welcome to the first edition of RedPath, the official newsletter for Redhill's Alumni Community #redhillforlife.

Not only will RedPath provide you with news of what is happening on campus, but it will also allow you to be in-the-know and up to date with news from your fellow alumni classmates around the world.

We would love you to share your news with us – where you are, what you're doing, and who you are doing life with. Virtual bonus points will be given if you send us a photo!

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone else that you feel would like to be on our mailing list. They can opt in here: redhill.alumnet.co.za

Have a wonderful week further – I look forward to hearing from you!



Deborah Hele
ALUMNI 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

COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY





Matric Results 2020

It is with immense pride that we congratulate the Matric Class of 2020, as well as their dedicated and inspirational teachers, on achieving outstanding results in the 2020 IEB Examinations.

5

Congratulations!

MATRIC Class of 2020

on 270 distinctions

»»» **38%**
received an
A average

»»» **73%**
received a
B average or above

»»» **17%**
received a
full house
(7 or more distinctions)

»»» **82%**
received
one or more
distinctions

COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Colleen Riphagen
(nee Ferguson)

CLASS OF 1974

Colleen matriculated from Redhill in 1974 after spending two years at the school as a boarder. We envisage her with a broad grin when she writes "I have many tales to tell about the great times we boarders had when the day pupils went home!"

After leaving Redhill, Colleen spent four years at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, where she obtained her BSC Degree and Higher Diploma in Education. She subsequently taught high school sciences in Ladysmith and Kloof for a couple of years and then left South Africa to travel with her husband - with the goal of climbing mountains! The result? They ended up in the Canadian

Rockies and never left.

After completing a PhD in Neurophysiology at the University of Calgary in 1987, she spent a decade or so involved in university teaching and medical research. When her family made the decision to move to a ranch and raise cattle, Colleen returned to her first career – that of a high school science teacher – in a nearby small town. And this is what she still does and delights at, being "very happy sharing her love of science with students."

Maja Odendaal
(nee Bufacchi)

CLASS OF 1976

Maja sends greetings from Västerås Sweden! She graduated in 1976 – in an all-girl class of 17 – and says Redhill gave her the

confidence to study, achieve and get through a very tough time. Her head teacher then was Mr Harrison, who Maja recalls with much fondness as supporting her through Forms 4 and 5! Her head girl was Ms Helena Kriel. Maja enthuses how she had the honour to be taught by Helena's father, the legendary Dr Isaac Kriel. After school she travelled overseas for the first time, spent six months travelling around Europe and went to a summer school in the South of France where she received a Diploma in French. A divorced mum of three adult children, Maja has two sons and a daughter. And she's a proud grandmother of nine! Her eldest son in the UK has seven children, her second son based in the UK has two. Her soon-to-be 23-year old daughter lives with her and is sadly critically ill with undiagnosed and untreatable



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Lyme disease; she also suffers from IBS. But they're standing strong with much hope, positivity and faith and she feels blessed to have been part of the 'Free to Build' Team.

✉ email me:
mayao2000@yahoo.com

We all have you and your daughter in our thoughts and prayers Maja.

Wendy Heath (nee Capstickdale)

Now living in the USA for the last 21 years, Wendy is married, with a 12-year old daughter, Amberose. She returned to school to become a Certified Nurse Assistant after the birth of her daughter and now is involved with In-Home Care; she is passionate about her work and clients. She would love to go back to school and work towards becoming a registered nurse working ultimately in an ER or doing billing and coding. She tells us she might do both! Now that's what we call setting goals!

✉ email me:
wendles22@yahoo.com

Saffron Doran (nee Fabig)

CLASS OF 1980



Johannesburg remains Saffron's home, where she and her family live in the beautiful suburb of Parkwood. Married 20 years, she has a son in Grade 11, and a daughter in Grade 8 at Redhill School. Saffron is an Electronic

Producer for all things content-related, a career path she has followed her entire adult life. She looks forward to connecting with everyone again too!

✉ email me:
saffron@riverstonefilms.co.za

Richard Behrman

CLASS OF 1981

After matric – December 1981 – Richard departed for the USA where he now lives in Blue Ash, Cincinnati, Ohio. He still keeps his ties with Redhill going strong, with several of his classmates and by tuning into RedRadio to keep current with the strides the school has made. Richard's affiliation to Redhill has also kept him interested in following where his post-school days took teachers from his era.

He is the development director for the oldest non-profit in Cincinnati – www.cubcincy.org. Its mission is focused on empowering women and serving the most vulnerable sector of the population – those who are victims of homelessness and human trafficking. His company is also in the midst of opening a new pillar to the organization – Cincinnati Scholar House – which will offer affordable housing for those single mothers completing their tertiary education. 40 years on, Richard is married to Sara, has two children – Rachel (25) and Adam (21), and is clearly a proud and supportive parent. Rachel recently moved back to Cincinnati from NYC and is a technical director in the theatre industry. Adam is hoping to graduate from Elon University in N.C. and is a computer science major. Sara has

been in the same industry for 35+ years as a mortgage banker in the commercial real estate industry.

✉ email me:
richard@rbehrman.co.za

Madison Volkwyn

CLASS OF 2014



A Social Dynamics Graduate of Stellenbosch University (2018), majoring in Psychology and Social Anthropology, Madison has been employed throughout within the Wine Industry, having started at Delaire Graff Estate.

Her work in this industry helped her to discover her passion for the business of wine and how interesting the sales and marketing within this industry can be. Jumping right in, Madison worked her way up to pursuing her Level 4 Diploma in Wine, from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust, which should be completed next year. Thereafter she aims to apply to the Institute of Wine Masters. She also holds a certificate in digital marketing, through the University of Cape Town (2019), and is always "ready to create magic!"

She lives and loves all things Creation Wines, creating digital content, teaching others and selling wine. "I thought this was an apt time to mention that we're

COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

always up for working with other businesses and can incorporate different elements on our bottles for custom branding should you ever want to partner up with Creation on upcoming school functions and more," she adds. We can see she's terrific at PR too! "Redhill still has such a special place in my heart and I'm proud to see the creative way in which you have adapted to the effect that COVID19 has had on the schooling environment. I have no doubt that you are equipping this generation to manage everything that comes their way,"

✉ email me:
madison@creationwines.com

Tom Keyword

CLASS OF 2010



Tom's post-Redhill days took him into the field of economics, wherein he qualified with Bachelor's Honours and Master's Degrees (2011-2015). He recently moved to Frankfurt, having recently completed a PhD in economics at the University of Tübingen, a picturesque little medieval town in southern Germany. He's been in Germany for over four years now, after spending five years in Stellenbosch.

✉ email me:
tom.keyword@gmail.com

Ross Anderson

CLASS OF 2010

Ross was part of the 2010 Class. A great year to remember – World Cup South Africa! Ross recently discovered we have a Redhill newsletter, so we'll definitely be adding him to the mailing list, and hopefully catch up on his post-Redhill personal and professional path.

✉ email me:
rossctanderson@gmail.com

Kyle O'Hagan

CLASS OF 2010

Also from our 2010 matric group, Kyle is now a qualified chartered accountant currently living in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. His career spans five years with Deloitte's Audit and Assurance department and he recently joined a company called Workiva, where he is a Solutions Architect. Here, Kyle assists companies with restructuring their financial departments and has companies such as Shell and HSBC in his client portfolio. He became engaged just before lockdown and he and his Dutch fiancé – who have travelled most of Europe together and who met in The Netherlands – eagerly await to celebrate with family and friends both there and in South Africa once a date is set.

Michael Fraser

CLASS OF 2013

Part of the Class of 2013 here, Michael did BCom Law at UCT in South Africa and is finishing up his Masters in Finance at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia.

Mark Woolley

CLASS OF 1994

Mark and his wife Karen (Leggatt) both matriculated at Redhill in 1995 and 1994 respectively. He and Karen started dating at Redhill and have been together ever since! At present, they are sitting out the lockdown with their two daughters at their home in the Cotswold countryside just outside Stratford upon Avon in England. Shakespeare territory.

They have an events and film business and, like so many around the world, are concerned about the impact COVID-19 will have on holding events and making films in the future. Based primarily in international motorsport and other sporting disciplines like sailing.

Mark was working on a race track at the Excel Arena in London for the Formula E Championship which has been turned into a Nightingale Hospital, which he, comments "is now an example of how its put to pay many events, and almost certainly to the race due to be held there in July." Their events business is also involved with an event called CarFest, which is due to be held in August, on former South African Formula One World Champion Jody Scheckter's farm, in Hampshire. It raises over £1.5 million for children's charities each year. The Woolley family follows SA news with interest and hopes things will improve here soon too.

Mark says his family want to make a trip to SA when they're allowed out of confinement and would love to stop by Redhill to say hello and show his daughters where he and Karen went to school.

He sends best wishes and "stay safe" to all Redhillians.

✉ email me:
mark@speedstreamgroup.com

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Alexander Jordi

CLASS OF 2015

Alexander matriculated in 2015 and is now a Mechanical Engineer set to start working for Airbus Bristol, UK. We wish you much success in the new position, Alexander. Keep us posted!

✉ email me:
alexjamesjordi@gmail.com

Kaarin Hindmarch (nee McGregor)

Kaarin Hindmarch (nee McGregor) fondly recalls what a "wonderful and brilliant platform" Redhill is. Her personal and professional life took her overseas for many years, embracing a career in marketing, advertising and PR. She and her husband eventually returned, married and set up home-base in the magnificent seaside town of Plettenberg Bay. They subsequently launched an adventure business called 'AfriCanyon', for which they received consistent annual provincial and national accolades. "It's wonderful to have had the pleasure of hosting a number of Redhill students in the past few years too," says Kaarin who enthuses how blessed they feel to be in South Africa, "living the best life we can and sharing our vision of self-empowerment via the vehicle of adventure."

✉ email me:
kaarin@africanyon.co.za

Clauds Harper

CLASS OF 2012



Another Redhill Alumni, Clauds' path took her to the 'Land of the Hobbit' – New Zealand, where she now lives and works as a Year 3 teacher.

✉ email me:
clauds39@hotmail.uk

Lauren Burgin (nee Dorsky)

(grade 1 to standard 7)



Lauren's biggest blessing is her family. She lives with her husband Craig in Johannesburg. They have two sons – Joshua who is

studying Business Science at UCT and Gabriel who has completed his matric. Their extended family includes their Labs, Marley and Freezo! Lauren says she's still a very sociable person, appreciating and loving life every day and leading a very happy and content days focussed around family and catch-ups with friends. Plus, she runs, gyms, enjoys good food and a good glass of wine to relax!

✉ email me:
lauren@promo-one.co.za

Oscar Danysz

CLASS OF 2010



Until recently, Oscar worked as a qualified attorney at a Sandton-based firm specialising in corporate and commercial litigation. He currently resides in Lund, Sweden, where he will be doing another Masters at Lund University, this time specialising in International and European Trade and Tax Law. Upon completing the programme, Oscar will either stay in academia and pursue a PhD at the same university, or alternatively, go into the corporate industry in Scandinavia.

✉ email me:
oscardanysz2@yahoo.com

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Dr Jeunesse Park

CLASS OF 1970



Dr Park is a project development consultant and has shared with us news of Ruth Klevansky's passing. "A brilliant English teacher who I was fortunate to learn from in the late 1960's". Thank you, Dr Park, who would like other alumni to know.

✉ email me:
jpark@progreen.co.za

Ingrid Paterson (nee Kent)

CLASS OF 1965
or thereabouts



I don't have very exciting news but would like to link up with some of my old school friends if possible. I am married to James Paterson and have been living in Inverness, Scotland for the past 20 years. I have a son living in Croatia, a daughter in Cape Town and three young granddaughters. Very interested in the Alumni News.

✉ email me:
paterson9@btinternet.com

Rob Armstrong

CLASS OF 1995



Rob is married to Erica and they have two children James and Isabella, both of whom attend Bridge House, where Mike Russel has recently retired as head.

Their most recent family time together has been on their farm in Franschoek. His life path with Erica now sees him following Bio Dynamic regenerative agricultural practices on their 23-hectare wine and fynbos farm; producing distinctive, handcrafted wines made in harmony with nature. A year ago, Rob fell in love with swimming and aimed to swim the Robben Island crossing during the month of April. Unable to swim the real crossing, he tied himself to the end of his pool and swam for the time it would have taken him to cross. And all in support of an animal welfare organisation - Kudos, Rob! The stuff that Redhillians are made of!

✉ email me:
rob@hautespoir.com

10

ARE YOU AN OLD REDHILLIAN?

Register/update
your details now to receive
Redhill Alumni
news, invitations to reunions
and events, and so much more!

Visit redhill.alumnet.co.za to sign up and
be sure to email alumni@redhill.co.za
with your latest news!

COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY



REDHILL stronger than ever

Our journey through

COVID-19

As the second term began in 2020 we knew it wouldn't be a term unlike any other as the learners were challenged with practising distance learning from the safety of their homes as a result of the lockdown. The closing of the school and the move to distance learning led to changes in the way teachers interacted with their students – and that was no small feat. At Redhill, our students rely on their teachers not only for academics but also for a sense of stability, comfort and more. The strong relationship between our learning and teachers helped to ensure a successful month of distance learning. In a video shared by Redhill and compiled by its leadership team, students were encouraged to find small ways to stay motivated and to assure them that they were not alone in the journey as their peers and teachers were only a click away. During this time of Redhill School Heads put together a comprehensive Back To School Plan that comprised of three phases. These phases were based on a "best scenario" forecast and were determined by the number of students returning to school each month and by government decisions. It was important that Redhill remained open to change and be as flexible as possible during these challenging times. And as in the classics, the 1st of June 2020 dawned and Redhill re-opened and welcomed its students back!



COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY



Redhill School
INNOVATE • EDUCATE • CONTRIBUTE

COVID-19 Inspiration

This inspirational message was written by one of our Grade 12 students, Gemma Muller, to her fellow Matrics on Facebook.

Gemma has shown maturity, strength and wisdom far beyond her age. She epitomises the true spirit of a Redhillian and we could not be prouder.

Read her letter here



Gemma Muller

Dear fellow matrics of 2020,

It is unfair isn't it? Why does it have to be our year? Why should we have to suffer a pandemic and an economic crisis while studying for what has been overtly advertised as the most important academic year of our lives? I went through this mindset, trust me, but why not us? You are the strongest group of individuals I have ever had the privilege of meeting. If anyone can do this, it is we. We are lucky enough to attend a school that can move online relatively swiftly - a school with a staff of brilliant teachers capable of altering the backbone of their profession to do everything they can to help us.

“ It is unfair isn't it? Why does it have to be our year? ”

From what I understand, we have two options here, with two very prominent outcomes:

1. We use this as an excuse to underperform. "It's not our fault. We had a pandemic to endure." In this case, we compete – keep our understanding and resources for ourselves. Much like the panic buying as a result of this virus, we

stockpile anything that we believe will be to our own advantage.

2. We use this to achieve against all odds. We can be the group that somehow managed to do it and do it well. We pull together in this time of isolation. We work an extra hour a day to get ahead and stay ahead. We help our teachers to the best of our abilities – they are going through this just as much as we are. Matric was always going to be difficult. Let's get into the varsities, achieve our distinctions and survive matric despite this.

"When we die, let it be said: Our spirit's white, Our hearts are red." BE STRONG, Gemma.

12

COVID-19 Inspiration

Building for the Future

Redhill School is proud of the recently completed Junior Preparatory Building which is adjacent to the current Music Block. For now, our Early Learning Centre children occupy the beautiful and functional classrooms whilst their building undergoes refurbishment.



Coffee AND CONNECTIONS

Oceans and social distancing can't keep you away from staying connected with your fellow Alumni!

Identify a Redhill Alumna/us you want to meet. Send us an email with a few of your questions to alumni@redhill.co.za and we will put you in touch. Or if you would like us to set up an informal virtual coffee session with a specific topic we will 'host' a video conference and that way we can start building personal and professional relationships within the Redhill community.

The hope is to continue lifelong learning about topics of interest and to connect with alumni, staff, and eventually meet physically over a hot cup of coffee!



COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY



Celebrating our FIRST group of

International Baccalaureate

Graduates

Redhill is one of just THREE schools in South Africa to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme at Matric level and the only school to offer students the option of choosing to graduate with either an IEB or IB qualification.

It is with immense pride that we congratulate our first IB Matric Class of 2020 on achieving outstanding results in 2020 IB Examinations, including Wangari Mbuthia whose results placed her in the top 2% in the world!



14

2021 Reunions

- »» 10th Reunion (Class of 2011)
- »» 20th Reunion (Class of 2001)
- »» 30th Reunion (Class of 1991)
- »» 40th Reunion (Class of 1981)
- »» 50+ Reunion

Celebrate the milestone anniversary

of your graduation from
Redhill School.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to evaluate all our options for celebrating Reunions in person and/or virtually and will keep you updated when we have more information to share.

In the meantime, please take a moment to update your contact information
redhill.alumnet.co.za
to receive all of our future Reunion announcements and communications.

COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY



2020 Sporting Highlights for Redhill

Here are our
TOP 4!

There were some wonderful sporting highlights that stood out in the first term. We are so proud of all our students competing and holding the Redhill name high!



1st Team Cricket
H/School Boys **winning**
the St Peters T 20 trophy



15



**U/11A
Netball
Girls
Winning**

Montrose
Netball
Tournament

COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY



2020 Sporting Highlights for Redhill

1st 
Team
Netball
Girls
Winning
Saheti
Netball
Tournament



16

Swimming Team

H/School Swimming Team moving up to A league after **winning B League last year** and placing **2nd overall** after competing in the A League for the 1st time.



COLLABORATION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • CREATIVITY • CRITICAL THINKING
CARE • COMMITMENT • CONFIDENCE • COURAGE • CURIOSITY





RedPath

CONNECTING THE REDHILL ALUMNI COMMUNITY

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.

www.redhill.co.za