

Oakhill Old Oaks

December 2012



From the desk of Barbie Leibbrandt

Dear Old Boys and Old Girls of Oakhill – of 1992 stock and beyond.

It gives me great pleasure to be sharing the Joys of Oakhill with you all some of your joys past, some of our joys present and a combination of yours and ours looking to the future.

As I stood on the Abbots Field behind Totties Restaurant at Rheenendal on Saturday morning, enjoying the fresh air and camaraderie of the Prep boys and girls, dads and teachers tussling for a win on the cricket pitch, it dawned on me that this time next year we'll be enjoying just such a gathering on our very own cricket field. Yes, the purchase of the 17 hectares of land on the Welbedacht Road has become a reality for Oakhill – purchased, signed and sealed.



What perfect timing as we prepare to celebrate our 21st Birthday on the 28th February 2013. We have all sorts of festivities lined up for the weekend of the 1st and 2nd March, culminating in a Gala Dinner at Thesen Harbour on Saturday evening. This will be a celebration touched with the spirit of Oakhill and we encourage as many of you as possible to grace the evening. Spread the word, gather your classmates and book your tables soon. Catherine Brodie is OC bookings – tickets are R250 a piece and

we're on track to fill the venue – 45 tables of 10.

The 21st Birthday Weekend - 2013

Thursday 28 February	Oakhill School turns 21
Friday 1 March	Students and Teachers Birthday Celebrations and Assemblies at Oakhill
Saturday 2 March	Oakhill's 21st Birthday Bash
09:00	Old Oaks and current Students Experience Day
18:00	Gala Dinner at Thesen Harbour Cost of ticket: R250 pp RSVP to Catherine before 16 February 2013 at 044 382 6506 or c.brodie@oakhillschool.co.za

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We would also love you to attend any of the special Birthday Celebrations and Assemblies at Oakhill on Friday 1st March and to participate in various team events that the Sport department have organised

When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it happened or not.

- Mark Twain



Scenes around our beautiful Campus



Oakhill Staff in 2012 - a full and happy school

on Saturday morning, 2nd March. Or just simply arrive and wander around a campus that has been transformed during the past few years. We are so proud, and I have no doubt that you will be amazed and proud too.



The beautiful Tuck Shop area under the large Gum Trees.

Board members, and the more Old Oaks' faces, the better - the invitation is open to one and all.

We monitor with pride, you our Old Oaks; you stretch the world over, learning, working, studying, adventuring, achieving, experiencing your own joys. Please keep sharing these joys with us, as Theri Rossouw (née Horn, 1995 Matriculant) did not so long ago. I never knew Theri, but as we've interacted in the last while, I feel like I do know her now. I was delighted to share her joy when she told me that she stood in line to win Entrepreneur of the Year 2012 and I was even more enthralled when she mailed me to share her amazing news at being the winner. I asked Theri to send me her story; what a feisty young lady and I would hope that Oakhill instilled some of that vibrant, tenacious, persevering magic in her heart to succeed.



A proud Theri Rossouw receiving her award

As Old Oaks so often return to visit, their surprise at what they find is always a wonder to behold, written on their faces, heard in their voices and it is indeed a pleasure to share this with them, particularly as they encounter old faces that still appear at classroom doors or that sit at a Reception desk. It is abundantly rewarding to share these joys. Some things never change at Oakhill; the classrooms, the corridors pulsate with a wonderful energy, they did then and they do now – a happy, creative space buzzing with enquiring, happy students.

As I walkabout with prospective families, it is a comment that I hear so often: "What a wonderful energy exists here. It is almost tangible."



Shane Kidwell together with Dal and Allan Graham

Two beautiful and successful young Moms enrolled their gorgeous 3 year olds at Oakhill this year – both had been enrolled at Oakhill, but moved on to matriculate at schools elsewhere - Annelize Bain and Jackie Wilson. There has been this sense of belonging and excitement and pride and I get the feeling when sharing and chatting to them that they have a deep sense of commitment to Oakhill.



Oakhill past student Jackie Wilson with daughter Fallon at Little Oaks

We enjoyed a delightful visit from Allan and Dal Graham earlier this year. What a privilege to stroll them around the campus and to see the delight on their faces, proud moments for us and treasured moments and memories for them. Allan and Dal will be among the many "old" faces that will be seen on the campus during our Birthday Weekend – founder families and pupils, founder Board members, past Headmasters, past



Old Oakhillians' Sports Day: Saturday 2 March 08h30 - 13h00

Hockey on Oakhill astro 5 matches	08h40 – 10h20 20 minutes per match	5-a-side with no goalies Boys and Girls teams
Soccer on Oakhill astro 4 matches	10h40 – 11h40 15 minutes per match	5-a-side Boys and Girls teams
Water Polo in Oakhill pool 3 matches	12h00 – 13h00 20 minutes per match	7-a-side Boys and Girls teams

One Oakhill school side (Girls and Boys) will be entered for each sporting discipline so **Old Oakhillian teams** needed are:

- Hockey** : 8 teams
- Soccer** : 6 teams
- Water Polo** : 4 teams

All the rules will be on the Intranet and all teams are to meet 10 minutes before the commencement of that particular sporting discipline.

To enter a side please contact Dave Pryke on d.pryke@oakhillschool.co.za or call on 083 400 3208.



Winning isn't everything, but the will to win is everything.

- Vince Lombardi



Past pupil Guy Jacobs with wife Holly, son Tré and daughter Lyla; Annelize Geldenhuys and son Adrian



Oakhill has always been about open conversations and still is. I was encouraged to have a conversation with Guy Jacobs (matriculated in 1998) and his dear Holly not so long ago and what I am about to share with you has to be a "Wrigley Moment". The Oakhill records indicate that Guy was the very first admission in the Oakhill Register (dear Mrs Brown pointed this out to me) and is the very first Old Oakhillian to enrol their son, Tré, into Grade 1 next year. This simply has to be a special moment in the life of the Jacobs Family and for Oakhill too. We salute the Jacobs Family and look forward to an abundantly happy, historical association with them.

Whilst compiling this communication I have thought a lot about PeeBee. He has scribed for many reasons and with many purposes, Old Oaks being one of the many. PeeBee has reached his golden years, and being PeeBee, wasn't keen for a fanfare send off – he has done it his way, intimately, individually, in small doses. As a group of staff, past pupils and friends gathered with him on Sunday evening to celebrate our "PeeBee Moments" (no shortage of these!), we

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

— Henry Brooks Adams

saluted him as a Master Teacher and Mathematician, Master of Analysis, Master Hockey Coach, Master Wine Connoisseur and an Oakhill Legend, being all sorts to all men, to some women, at all times. I have booked him a spot at our Dinner table and who knows, he could be on that Oakhill astro on Saturday morning, 2nd March, chirping his chirps! Let's cheer him on!

As 2012 draws to a close, please remember to diarise the 1st and 2nd March 2013 in your head space and in your forward planning. We await your participation with joyful anticipation. I shared with Tim and Matt Muir on Sunday morning as we prepared to drive that little white ball down the first fairway: "Boys, you really need to remember to attend this momentous occasion in your young lives. Gather your 2007 Matric classmates and prepare to celebrate 13 years of joyful learning. Look forward to a weekend blended with mirth, fun and amazing meaningful reunions."

Do it dear old Boys and old Girls of Oakhill – you'll be glad you did and sorry you didn't.

To RSVP your attendance, please email me, What's App me, SMS me, best of all – call me. I would love a real life chat – whatever is easiest for you.

Wishing you heart and happiness during this holiday season.

Yours in the spirit of the Joy of Learning.

Barbie



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