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Fifty years on...messages from the Class of 1971

When I was your age, there was something very important that I had figured out for myself (BTW this is not necessarily for everyone...): it wasn't that I didn't know what I want to do with my life. It was: there were many different things that I wanted to do in my life!

So the issue became: how to go about doing all of these various things. Preparation? First thing? Things that had to wait? Done sequentially or at the same time? ... Believe me: it can be done! Bottom line? Don't get overly worried about these types of definitive questions. Things will change and especially you can change
Robert Piret, Class of 1971

I still admire those of my class that had a clear idea of what they wanted to do. To others I just say don't worry too much, because opportunities are always out there. Often you find in college what you want to do. It may be a professor that just opens your eyes to something you had never thought about...So, if you have an idea, follow your dream and put all the effort to reach it. When you have doubts always remember ASP, for it's a great school that you had the privilege to attend and you were part of a unique experience that gave you a great start in life... the bottom line is go for it!
Enrique Guzzetti, Class of 1971

Welcome to the global ASP alumni community! As an ASP graduate, you share an enduring bond both with your classmates and also with those who came before and those who will follow you. Elsewhere on this page, my fellow 1971 graduates offer you their greetings, observations and advice. I wish to promote something of specific importance to me, that of pursuing public service careers in government and not-for-profit institutions...The sense of accomplishment in public service is priceless!
Steven Pendery, Class of 1971

Fifty years ago, we stood in your shoes. Your challenges these last years have been substantial so we salute your achievements in the face of countless obstacles. In our day we had the Vietnam War and the Paris student demonstrations of 1968 to navigate. Now you have faced a fear-inducing global pandemic... The most overused advice to graduates is "follow / find your passion" but for pretty good reason - it works... Let your idea of yourself and your path in life remain open for a while. The coming years will be as formative as your years at ASP, so go forward with gusto, be open to new ideas, new paths, new bright futures.

From our class to yours, we wish you great success and hope you benefit from your time spent, and the relationships formed at ASP.
Paul Worthington, Class of 1971

People are people - the world over, but you stand apart in your having had a special chance to see this human experience first-hand. Take all of your multi-cultural experiences of living as a teenager in Paris, and apply them wherever and whenever you can. You know already how others live, love, eat, play and work. That knowledge puts you ahead of many. Share it, with energy and compassion.

Jay Shapiro, Class of 1973, and Yselle Shapiro, Class of 1971

You are an esteemed citizen of the ASP community. It is an honor you wear for life, and in my experience becomes more valuable as the years pass. The shared international experience of students, teachers and geography opens up a door to thoughts and opportunities far beyond what I ever could have imagined. Hopefully it will be for you as it is for me, a gift that is never finished with what it has to give.

Kathleen Degen Smith, Class of 1971

And from ASP Alumni around the world

Congratulations, you've done it!! You have just completed a solid, well-rounded high school education at an outstanding institution. At the same time, you created many indelible memories of a time in a magical city that will be with you for life. These memories will bring happy moments and you will think "Wow, that was amazing. How was I so lucky?" - even in a global pandemic. Being young while living in Paris is a true gift. There is something so indescribable about it - that feeling of awe, newness, romance, exploration and independence all wrapped together. You may not know it now, but your cultural education has changed you and your potential! Your eyes have been opened wide, your understanding of the world has been expanded. You have become wiser! Now, go forth and bring that wisdom, empathy, and knowledge to everything you do and everyone you meet. The world needs more of it. Best of luck!

Bonnie Potter, Class of 1978

*Congratulations to the Class of 2021!
Go out there and make that positive difference in the world, your way, your style!*

Naz Panahi, Class of 1991

You are joining a global network of leaders, philanthropists and creative thinkers. The many lessons I learned at ASP still impact how I work, live and approach relationships to this day. I hope we can continue to remain connected on LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network. With almost 760 million members, 57 million companies and 120 thousand schools, this is where professionals come to to advance their careers. Please join me and and thousands of ASP alums in staying in touch way after you leave Saint-Cloud

Ousman Jobe, Class of 1991

Congratulations to the class of 2021! You made it!...The perseverance and adaptability that you have developed in high school will serve you well in life. So much lies ahead of you. Think carefully, follow your heart, and listen to your gut instincts - you will find your way through thick and thin. Take care of yourself and always be kind. ASP is a special and unique place and the insights and perspectives you have gained here will serve you well on the road ahead. Enjoy the ride!
Bobby Beldan, Class of 2001

As you go forth and navigate these uncertain times, stay positive - even in the darkest moments, there are rays of hope. Cherish your family and close friends. And as much as possible, use your education and privilege in society to help others. Our world feels incredibly broken right now, but your creativity, knowledge, and passion can help make it better and fairer. Continue stepping up to lead and serve whenever you can.

Congratulations!

Sieste Goffard, Class of 2011

ASP will contribute to your education and your life without a doubt..cherish these memories and these friends forever! No matter how much you or your life may change, stay motivated, stay unique, and stay true to yourself, this is just the beginning! Whether you're graduating in 2011, like me, or in 2021, your high school experience will be a big part of your life forever. Your year is especially unique, you will remember this time for the rest of your life. Congratulations on your accomplishment.

Rosanne Zanvliet, Class of 2011