



Roxby Downs Area School

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NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 107 TERMS 1, Thursday 12th February, 2015

Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

Important Dates!

February 16 th – 18 th	R-7 Swimming
February 19 th	7-12 Swimming Carnival
February 20 th	3-6 Swimming Carnival
February 21 st	Market Day – Saturday
February 23 rd & 24 th	R-7 Swimming Catch Up
February 25 th	7-12 Sports Day
February 26 th	R-12 Student Voice Inductions
February 27 th	R-2 Splash Day
March 2 nd & 3 rd	Young Leaders Camp Adelaide
March 4 th	P&F Annual General Meeting

Sister Pat's Quote of the week.

The list of New Year's resolutions you made last year can be used again. It's as good as new (WGP)



NEW RECEPTION STUDENTS 2015





*Steve Bennett
Principal*



*Ann O'Sullivan
Deputy Principal*



*Tony Holden
Assistant Principal
7-12*



*Bec Eli
Assistant Principal
R-6*

Principal's Report:

A warm welcome back to all staff, students and parents to what we trust will be a very successful and rewarding year. The mild weather made an enormous difference in Week 1 and 2. The atmosphere across all class rooms has been very settled, with students highly engaged. The 60 new reception students in particular have made a very impressive beginning.

Staffing News: 2015 signals the commencement of a new leadership structure across the school. Our Executive Leadership group comprises Steve Bennett (Principal), Ann O'Sullivan (Deputy R-12), and 2 Assistant Principals, Bec Eli (R-6) and Tony Holden (7-12). Our Leadership team also includes the following Coordinators: Ally Christall (R-2), Julie Greenfield (3-6), Emy Nicholson (7-9), Lee Copeland (10-12), Beth Elliott (Wellbeing R-12) and Andrew Hudson (ICT R-12).

New Staff: We welcome 8 new teaching staff to our school in 2015; Claire Meatheringam (HEc), Andrew Stanley (Sc/Ma), Cyrus Weir (Eng/His), Daniel McGuire (PE, History/ Geography), Marc Herzen (History/ Geography), Tara Boothey (Yr 1/2), Kate Higgins (Yr 3/4), Emily Lewis (Yr 4/5). I'm sure each of these new staff members is going to make a positive contribution to our school and the community of Roxby Downs and so I wish them well for their time at RDAS.

Staffing returning in 2015: The following staff were on leave for various reasons during 2014 and so we welcome them back: Bev Zeptner (Rec), Jenna Schipper (Yr 1/2), Kate Pedersen and Emma Turner (Yr 1/2), Cerys Kirkwood and Amy Fulton (Yr 3/4), Melissa Mulders (Yr 3/4), Sam Fishlock (Yr 3/4), Amanda Trasy (.4 Primary nit), Alison Woodward (.6 Teacher librarian).

New Initiatives: In an ideal world, the new Uniforms would have been available for purchase on day one and the computer systems we worked on over the holidays would have been up and running.

In relation to the uniforms: The delay has been caused by the overseas custom service and so we are hopeful the uniforms will arrive in Week 4. To ensure we don't risk a repeat of these delays in 2016, our uniform order will be sent off in July, ensuring delivery before Christmas 2015.

In relation to the BYOD: The small USB's are now available for distribution to all students in Year 7-12 who have brought their own computers to school and so this system is now up and running. We are experiencing some issues with our IT wireless system; however, but are endeavouring to have these issues sorted out as quickly as possible.

Student Census: On the official census day on the 2nd February, we had 621 students enrolled in our school, which is up slightly on 2014. All classes in Yr R-2 are on average 21 and classes in Year 3-6 are on average 26.

Holiday Facilities Upgrades: Throughout the Christmas holidays, a number of projects were completed across the site. These include: Wireless upgrade to computer systems has been completed, Interactive White Board's have been installed in all classrooms R-9 (Yr 10-12 classes will have IWB's installed in April), the Air Conditioning upgrade has been completed to the Library, Admin and Science Labs and 'I Block' has been painted, new curtains installed and new lockers ordered (for our 3 Year 5/6 classes).

Key School Priorities in 2015: Our school will continue to focus on 4 key improvement priorities in 2015; Literacy, Numeracy, Information Technology and Wellbeing, while at the same time continuing our work with staff on implementing the Australian Curriculum. Staff Training and Development will focus on Information Technology, as we look to use these tools to support student learning in the key areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Attendance: Student attendance will continue to be a key focus in 2015. All schools are mandated to keep accurate records for all absences. Parents will assist us greatly if they can do one of three things if ever their children are absent:

- Reply to the automatic messages that it sent out on the day your child is absent.
- Sent a note or email to your child's care group teacher, giving the reason for the absence.
- Reply to the care group teacher's email, which will generally come out within a week of the absence, but only if we haven't had any communication from the parent.

Governing Council: The AGM of our Governing Council has been scheduled for Tuesday 17th March at 7:30pm. There are generally 3-4 vacancies on the GC on an annual basis and so parents who are interested in representing the school community by taking on a role on the GC are more than welcome to apply. Nomination forms for election on the Governing Council for 2015 will be emailed out in the next few weeks.

Kind Regards, Steve Bennett

From the R-6 Assistant Principal

Welcome back to 2015 and a warm welcome to new students and families. It's lovely to be back at RDAS in the role of R-6 Assistant Principal for twelve months and I am looking forward to working collaboratively with our parent community.

Already class teachers have been busy setting up and planning for the year ahead. We have an extremely committed team of teachers who began work for 2015 well before the students first day. The amount of time and love that goes into setting up your child's classroom is enormous and as leader of the cohort I was proud of the dedication and commitment from all teachers across R-6.

Events this term

There are a few events to highlight for Term 1. Firstly the Special Education and R-7 classes are swimming in Week 4-5, you will have had notes go home with your child. We also have the 3-6 Swimming Carnival scheduled for Friday 20th February and the R-2 Splash Day on Friday 27th February. Later in the term we also have the Student Voice induction, sleepovers, school photos and Parent/Teacher interviews. All of these dates and more are listed on the Term Planner which has been sent home via email or a copy can be collected from the front office.

Homework Policy Review

This year we are also undertaking a review of the R-6 Homework Policy. This was mentioned in classroom notes at the beginning of the year. With any policy change there is a process that is followed which can take some time. I thank you in being patient with our team as we make authentic and meaningful changes to a policy that at times can cause angst for both teachers and parents. We are working towards a model that considers the important balance between home and school yet encourages your child to develop lifelong thinking and learning skills. Our timeline at this stage is to have it ratified by Governing Council in Week 8 of Term 1. Until then, all classes are continuing homework that consists of daily reading and the completion of any unfinished classroom tasks as the individual class teacher sees fit. I thank you in advance for your patience and we welcome your feedback into this process.

Assemblies

The structure and timing of the R-6 Assemblies is also under review. Hence this term the R-6 classes will be attending two assemblies, the Student Voice induction assembly in Week 5 and an R-6 Assembly in Week 11.

Police Clearances for Parent Helpers

The safety of your child at RDAS is a priority and we encourage parent participation and involvement in your child's learning. Therefore if you would like to assist with swimming in any way, undertake regular involvement in your child's class or go on camps, sleepovers and excursions parents are required to have a Police clearance. They are relatively easy to complete. Collect a form from the front office, complete it and return to the front office for processing. The school pays the fee.

Relief Teachers in Roxby Downs

A reality of schooling in Roxby Downs is that there is a limited supply of relief teachers which impacts a large site like RDAS significantly. We do all we can to minimise disruptions to classes and the staff at RDAS is flexible and covers colleague's absences where possible however there will be times when primary classes need to be split. In these instances, class teachers plan the learning activities for the day and students are engaged with combination of curriculum from their home class and the class in which they are spending the day. If there is an occasion where your child's class is split there will be a member of the leadership team in the classroom to organise the morning. The roll will be taken and students will take their bags and pencil cases etc. with them to the class where they will spend the day. At all times we aim to minimise the disruption to students learning and put support structures in place for those students who may find the process unsettling.

Looking forward to working with you as we keep your child at the centre of all we do.

Warm wishes,

Rebecca Eli

R-6 Assistant Principal

Parent Feedback Wanted

As part of the R-6 Homework Review we are seeking parent feedback. The short *Survey Monkey* survey should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete and will give parents a voice in the changes. We appreciate your time and feedback. The survey will be closed on Friday 20th February.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QMLMYFN>



CANTEEN NEWS!!

NEW Glee drinks in the canteen!!!!!!

They come in 4 delicious flavours.
\$2.00 each

Blackcurrant Burst
Slammin Strawberry
Berry Blast
Bubblegum Grape

We will be replacing the LOL'S with these drinks.
Thankyou, canteen.

Natural ingredients, no preservatives & no added sugar.



Hi everyone.

Welcome back to those who are returning, and welcome, to the people who are new to the school. I hope you have all had a relaxing break and are refreshed and ready to take on a new year.

For those who don't know what my role is in the school, I am here to offer a pastoral, resource and referral service to the school community. I work with the school to develop services, programs and strategies that meet the needs of students in the school. Part of that is writing a regular article in the school newsletter.

Here is part of a quote I found that I thought would be good to think about for the start of the year!

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes.

Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something."

Neil Gaiman

Don't be afraid to make mistakes this year, challenge yourself and take opportunities that come your way because that is how you grow and succeed in life.

Michael Cantell

RDAS Christian Pastoral Support Worker.

Providing pastoral care and support to students, staff and families

At school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Tel: 86710011

Email: Michael.cantell237@schools.sa.edu.au

PARENTS & FRIENDS AGM



To be held in the RDAS Staff Room
Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 7pm
Light super provided
All Welcome



Parents and Friends are a group of volunteers who organise various fundraising events to raise money for Roxby Downs Area School.

Parents and Friends is a great way to meet people and have fun while fundraising.

New members welcome

Home Economics

The Home Economics department is in the process of setting up a new textiles/child studies room in D Block. To assist with our program we are looking for donations of unwanted items. Focus areas of study include sustainability and recycling. Any of the items listed below would be of use to our classes:

- Buttons
- Lace
- Ribbon
- Zips
- Denim-e.g. old jeans
- Cotton fabrics
- Cotton thread
- Felt



If you have any items you are willing to donate could you please leave them at the front office or contact one of the Home Economics staff.(Kate Bennie, Tanya Fry, Claire Meatheringham)

Free parenting seminar Keeping teens and pre-teens safe online



Are you the parent or carer of a 10 – 15 year old?
Are you worried about their online safety?

Come and hear internet safety experts and a child and adolescent psychologist talk about:

- > how teens connect online
- > how to talk with them about safety
- > making agreements and setting limits
- > dealing with cyberbullying.

Register to attend in person:

Online: <http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au/>
Phone: 8303 1660
Email: health.parentingsa@health.sa.gov.au

Or

Register for webcast:

Online: <http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au/>
When you register you will receive login details

Tuesday 17 March

When: 7.00–9.00pm

Where: Panorama Room
Adelaide Convention Centre
North Terrace
Adelaide

This seminar is designed for parents.
Presented by Parenting SA.
For more information about raising children and teenagers go to www.parenting.sa.gov.au and www.cyh.com.



**Government of
South Australia**

[YEAR 3/4 SWIMMING LESSONS!!!!](#)

Hop In

Last week Miss Fishlock's class went swimming in the pool. It was really cold which is not good. We had a laugh. It was really fun.

Jye Alexander Speight

Miss Fishlock's Year 3/4 class swimming lessons

I enjoyed the practicing diving off the blocks. Then I learnt how to do freestyle for the swimming carnival.

Lucy Ramsey

I loved having free choice on Friday because it was fun. I learnt how to do breast stroke and how to dive. I enjoyed walking to the pool.

C-Jay

I enjoyed swimming because it was fun diving into the deep end and making a whirl pool. I also learned to float and dive safely. The best thing was collecting toys from the bottom of the pool.

Chelsea.

