



**Roxby Downs Area School**  
7 Richardson Place, ROXBY DOWNS SA 5725  
Ph: 8671 0011 Fax: 8671 0210

# NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE 109 TERM 1, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**  
*Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.*

## Important Dates!

March 30 <sup>th</sup>	SSSA Athletics - Adelaide
March 30 <sup>th</sup> – April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 12 Camp
March 30 <sup>th</sup> – April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	R-6 Interviews
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	GOOD FRIDAY
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER MONDAY
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term 1 – 2pm dismissal
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of Term 2
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Market Day - SATURDAY

### Sister Pat's Quote of the week.

To get through the hardest journey we need take only one step at a time, but we must keep on stepping.  
(Chinese proverb)



## YEAR 8 AQUATICS CAMP



Fifty Year 8 students and seven adults ventured to Port Vincent in Week 7 of this term. We left bright and early on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, so that we could be there on time to start our aquatic activities that afternoon. We participated in activities such as knee boarding, wind surfing, sailing and kayaking at the Port Vincent Sailing Club on Tuesday and Thursday. Our Wednesday activities comprised of surfing, boogie boarding and body surfing at Berry Bay. After a busy week, full of fun and activities, we made our way back to Roxby Downs on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. All students and supervisors enjoyed their camp. A big thank you goes out to our parent helpers.



*Steve Bennett  
Principal*



*Ann O'Sullivan  
Deputy Principal*



*Tony Holden  
Assistant Principal  
7-12*



*Bec Eli  
Assistant Principal  
R-6*

**Far North Partnership Launch:** Staff from all of the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) sites in the Far North, (12 in total, including; Hawker AS, Hawker Kindy, Andamooka PS, Leigh Creek AS and Leigh Creek Kindy, Coober Pedy AS, Marree AS, Oodnadatta AS, Mintabie AS, Roxby Downs AS, Roxby Downs Kindy and Woomera AS ) attended a Training and Development day at Woomera AS last Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March. These sites form the Far North Partnership, a new liaison formed by DECD to create greater efficiency and support for all staff and students across our region. We had in excess of 200 staff attend on Friday, to help us launch the Far North Partnership, to hear from our keynote speaker (Professor Martin Westwell), on 'How to Create Powerful Learners' and then to attend one of 13 workshops on offer, covering a wide range of curriculum training opportunities. It was a great day.

**Chief Education Officer visits RDAS:** Our school was privileged last Thursday to have a visit from Ms Jayne Johnson, the Chief Education officer of DECD, the teaching head of our state education system. Jayne met with our Executive Team early in the day and was then taken on a tour of our site by our Senior and Junior leaders, who all did an amazing job of showcasing our school. Ms Johnson spoke in glowing terms of the students she met and the classes she visited, and was particularly impressed by our new school uniform. Ms Johnson went to Woomera AS on Friday, to be a part of our Partnership Launch and training day.

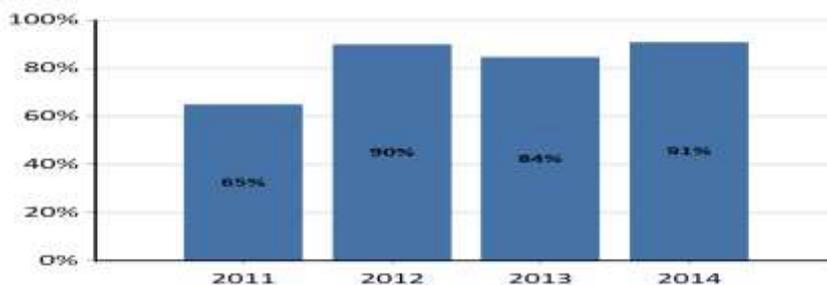
**Information and Technology Conference:** Staff members from our leadership team and our Information Technology (IT) committee attended a series of national conference in Sydney 2 weeks ago, to assist us as we make important decisions in the future in relation to IT, and 'How best provide for our students'. We heard from a number of IT experts from all areas of schooling; Early Years, Middle Years and Secondary Education. We also had the opportunity to learn from a number of 'high performing' school sites, as they shared their experiences and successes in implementing IT effectively in every classroom, to engage students.

**What did we learn from the schools that were show cased at the conference?** We have already taken some significant steps in the area of IT in 2014; through upgrading our IT systems, by installing an effective wireless environment, by installing Interactive White Boards (IWB's) in all class rooms and through the introduction of our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy in Year 7-12. These changes put us in a position to now take the next step, to effectively integrate IT across the whole site. The next important steps include:

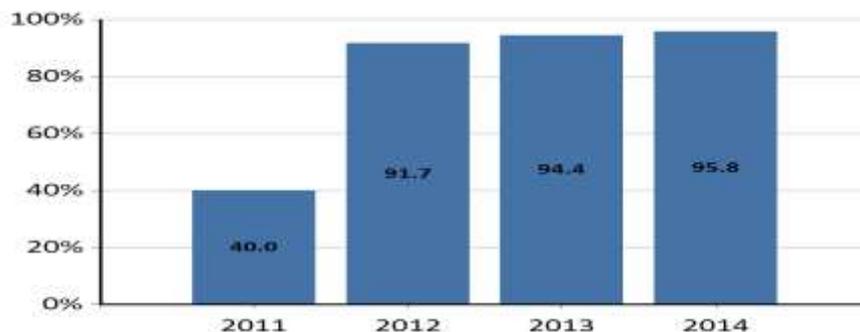
- Improving our internet speed: This can be achieved by connecting the school to the 'Fibre Optics Network', an important priority and something we are already working on. Our students will be heavily disadvantaged if we cannot resolve this issue.
- Ramping up the BYOD initiative: The take-up of our BYOD policy in Yr 7-12 has been slow but steady. It is imperative that every student has access to a device and so we urgently need the support of parents, to ensure this happens sooner rather than later.
- Year R-6 student access to IT is an important imperative. We will be making this a high priority in the next few months as it is important that all students in Year R-6 have direct access to IT devices. This is likely to mean a BYOD initiative being launched for the primary section of the school in Term 2.
- Staff Training and Development: This is seen as a critical component of any change. It was emphasized; however, that student's ability to engage with new software is high and that in most cases, the teacher won't be the expert, but will work with the students.

**Senior Secondary Data:** In this week’s newsletter, I’ve included the site data from the last 3 years in relation to our senior secondary students. The data is positive in every respect, reflecting an improvement in all areas in the past 12 months. The percentage of students receiving a C- grade or better is the highest it has been for 4 years, the percentage of students who have obtained their SACE is at an all-time high, and the percentage of students who recorded a grade lower than a D is tracking at 9%, down 5% from the results of 2013. These results are encouraging and are cause to celebrate. We will continue to work hard, to improve on these results, as our aim is for every student who completes their senior secondary studies at RDAS to achieve their full potential.

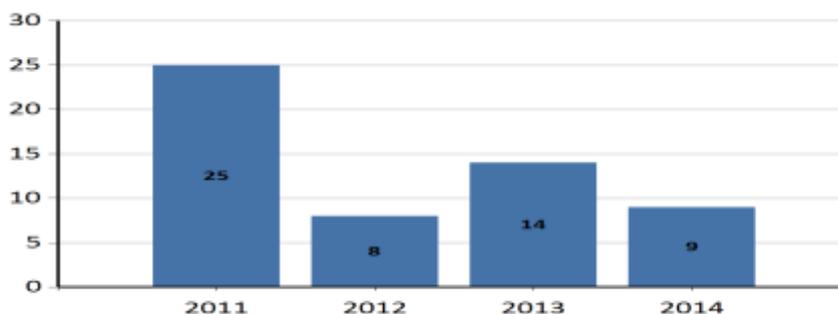
**Grade Percentages above C-:** The following graph shows the percentage of grades that are "C-" or above for attempted SACE subjects. These results show a positive trend.



**Percentage of Students completing SACE:** The following graph shows the percentage of students from RDAS who completed their SACE in the past 4 years. Once again, the data shows a positive trend.



**Percentage of Grade of D or Lower:** The following graph shows the number of grades D or lower. The downward trend of this graph once again shows positive growth on our school.



**Number of Students in the Year 12 cohort:** This table reflects the growth in our year 12 numbers.

Ms Jayne Johnson visits with our Year 6 Leaders and School Captains.



FAR NORTH LOCAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE - WOOMERA



## FROM THE R-6 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### **Transition Survey: Kindy to School**

Last week Reception parents should have received a letter with a Survey Monkey link to a Transition/Continuity of Learning Survey relevant to students who came to RDAS from the Kindy at the beginning of 2015. If you haven't had a chance, can you please jump online and complete the survey as it is important to our planning cycle for this year's transition process. The survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XYHCTKH> and should only take 5-10 minutes. We really appreciate your feedback.

### **Testing and Tracking Student Data**

Over the last two weeks R-6 teachers have been busy collecting data which is part of RDAS processes to track student progress. This testing not only informs day to day teaching programs but helps us identify trends which we use in forward planning and teacher development. Our teachers spend a tremendous amount of hours outside of the 8am-3pm school day collecting, analysing and planning with collected data. We are in a continuous cycle of improvement, striving to offer your child an individualised and appropriate learning program.

### **Homework Policy Review**

After considerable staff and parent consultation the R-6 Homework Policy was ratified by our new Governing Council last week. The policy was implemented across R-6 at the beginning of Week 9, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Thank you to those parents who provided feedback throughout the consultation process and thank you for continuing to work in partnership with your child's class teacher as we keep your child at the centre of all we do. The policy has been emailed to all RDAS parents via email and is in this newsletter. Should you have further questions please ask your child's class teacher.

### **Staffing Update**

Rikki Prosser, one of our Year 5/6 class teachers is off on Maternity leave at the end of Term 1. Mr Adam Spratt has been appointed to this position commencing Term 2 through to the end of the year. Adam comes from Long Street Primary School in Whyalla and is looking forward to his move to Roxby. We wish Rikki and her husband all the very best as they embark on this new chapter.

### **Report review using daymap**

As part of our move to using Daymap across our site the R-6 staff have been involved in a minor review of the format of our reports which go home in Term 2 and 4. The intention throughout this review has been to maintain ease of understanding for parents yet give teachers the opportunity to provide authentic feedback on student's learning, so keep a look out for a new layout next term.

### **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 undertake regular involvement in your child's class or go on camps, sleepovers and excursions all 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.

### **BYOD for Primary**

Many of our primary staff have, over the past couple of weeks, been attending Professional Development opportunities based around the use of Technology in the Early Years and Primary classrooms. It's an exciting time to be in education as we are no longer on the verge of enormous change but we have in fact begun moving along the generational change continuum. The Australian Curriculum has been a part of this change with the focus on developing creative problem solvers with the ability to be flexible in their thinking and apply knowledge to a variety contexts and situations. Along with this evolution of our curriculum has come the rapid changes in, and accessibility of technology to our children. No other generation has had such technology or information in the palms of their hands. Last year the 7-12 cohort began the move for RDAS towards becoming a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school. Considering the future of learning for your child, the primary staff have begun conversations regarding the BYOD program and what it might look like for our primary students. At the centre of all planning remains quality pedagogy and learning outcomes however we know that by integrating 21<sup>st</sup> technology into lessons, we can design learning tasks and achieve learning outcomes that without the technology are simply not possible. Therefore, the primary cohort will be looking to move towards 1:1 devices in our primary classrooms. How this is rolled out will be discussed over the next couple of terms and we will be inviting you to be part of our conversation.

### **Footsteps**

Early next term the Footsteps Dance Company will be attending RDAS and holding dance workshops with all students across R-6 for all of Week 1. It's an exciting program that the school has funded to work alongside the hard work that Mrs Winter already puts in with The Arts. Watch this space, we are sure to be dazzled!

Thanks again for all your support this term. The holidays are rapidly approaching, please enjoy your time together and if you are travelling, stay safe.

Warm wishes, Bec Eli.

## Roxby Downs Homework Policy R-2

### **Rationale**

The Roxby Downs Area School community views homework (reading and sight words) in Reception - Year 2 as a joint partnership between school and home linking learning between the two. Its purpose is to develop an interest in reading and improve student's reading skills.

### **Responsibilities**

#### **Students**

- Take home reading folder and sight words daily
- Read and say sight words daily
- Show Contact Book to parents
- Change readers with the supervision of parents and teacher
- Ask for help from parents or teachers where required

#### **Teachers**

- Program time for students to change readers and stick notes etc. into Contact Books
- Assess and provide reading feedback regularly
- Assess sight words regularly
- Ensure students are changing readers as required
- Provide students with suitable sight words and readers as assessed by teacher that are appropriate for individual learners
- Speak to parents with issues/concerns promptly

#### **Parents**

- Encourage child to read at home daily
- Assist with sight word revision daily
- Promote a positive reading culture at home
- Sign reading diary
- Check contact book daily
- Respect reading level assigned and support child in selecting appropriate reader as assessed by class teacher.
- Speak directly to class teacher with issues/concerns promptly

	R-2	3/4	5/6
<b>Time</b>	<b>Up to 10-15 minutes</b>	<b>Up to 20 minutes</b>	<b>Up to 30 minutes</b>
<b>Nights per Week</b>	Four (4) nights per week for all year levels		
<b>Content May include some or all of the content listed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Sight Words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• X Tables</li> <li>• Number Facts</li> <li>• Spelling/Grammar</li> <li>• Current Affairs</li> <li>• Higher Order Thinking Skills</li> <li>• Problem Solving Skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• X Tables</li> <li>• Number Facts</li> <li>• Spelling/Grammar</li> <li>• Current Affairs</li> <li>• Higher Order Thinking Skills</li> <li>• Problem Solving Skills</li> </ul>
<b>Specialist Subjects</b>	None	Specialist teachers (The Arts, HPE and Spanish) may set homework on the nights of student's lesson. The time is included in the allocation above. Spanish homework will consist of Vocabulary practice of up to 5 words.	
<b>Form</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levelled reader as assessed by class teacher.</li> <li>• Sight words as set by class teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levelled reader OR text of choice</li> <li>• Nightly Tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levelled reader OR text of choice</li> <li>• Nightly tasks OR</li> <li>• Short 'contract' relevant to classroom learning which consists of the above content.</li> </ul>

Years R-2 Homework Policy to be read in conjunction with Years 3-6 Homework Policy.

## Roxby Downs Homework Policy 3-6

### **Rationale**

The Roxby Downs Area School community views homework in Years 3-6 as a joint partnership between school and home linking learning between the two. Its purpose is to encourage independence, responsibility, organisation and time management skills through purposeful and real life learning experiences.

### **Responsibilities**

#### **Students**

- Complete and maintain diary daily
- Complete tasks by due date to the best of their ability
- To be organised
- To take ownership for their learning and completion of homework
- Ask for help from parents or teachers where required
- Finish incomplete classroom work as part of homework if class time has not been used efficiently
- Accept consequences for incomplete homework (as decided by class teacher)

#### **Teachers**

- To program time for students to complete diaries
- Provide homework that is relevant, purposeful and meets time allocations
- Ensure tasks set can be completed independently or with minimal assistance from parents/caregivers
- Be clear with explanations and expectations
- Provide prompt, formal feedback to students. Homework may be marked as a class.
- Acknowledge students completing homework and provide consequences for incomplete homework (consequence at the discretion of individual teachers)

#### **Parents**

- Encourage child to complete tasks by set deadline
- Promote a positive homework culture at home
- Make available a suitable space for homework in the home
- Ensure access to stationary equipment (pens, pencils, rubbers etc.)
- Check and sign diaries/contact books regularly
- Speak directly to class teachers with issues/concerns



SANDY GIBB  
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION OFFICER

NARDENE MONTGOMERIE  
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION  
TEACHER

# Yakarti Room



## EVENTS TO REMEMBER

### WEEKLY

- Coffee mornings – every Wednesday morning from 9:30 in Yakarti Room
- Multi-cultural coffee morning—Tuesday mornings @ the dunes from 10:30
- Yakarti after school assistance program – (YASAP) Tuesdays from 3:00pm to 3:40 in Yakarti room

### MONTHLY

- Aboriginal Women's network group—last Thursday of every month 7pm to 8:30pm Roxby Downs Community Church (for more info ring Kerry Orr on 86719028



We were lucky to have Mrs Jordan's 1/2 class come to the Yakarti room to do an activity around the dreaming story "How the birds got their colours"



## "YASAP"

### Yakarti After School Assistance Program

*YASAP is a afterschool program designed to provide ATSI students with a place to get support for homework, reading, numeracy and any school subject areas they are having difficulty with.*

**WHEN:** Tuesday 3:00pm - 3:40pm

**WHERE:** Yakarti room 1 Block

**Who :** Nardene Montgomerie and Sandy Gibb

*Please let us know via email or a note in your child's diary/contact book if you wish for your child to attend. Students without permission will unfortunately not be allowed to stay.*

*Nardene.montgomerie359@schools.sa.edu.au*

*Sandy.gbb432@schools.sa.edu.au*

# Parent / Teacher Interview Reminders



As the term draws to a close, parent / care givers are reminded that interviews will be held for all students over the next few weeks.

**For Year R-6 Parents/ Care Givers:** The Year R-6 interviews will be conducted next week, from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. This is an ideal opportunity to get and update from your child's teacher about their learning programme and the ways you can support this from home. If you haven't already booked an appointment time, I encourage you to do so immediately.

During the parent Teacher interview, we will be collecting 'parent perception data'. When you come in for the interview, the teacher will provide you with a brief survey. Your responses will be kept anonymous, and the information used by us as we plan for the future. We thank you in advance for taking the few minutes required to complete the survey.

**For Year 7-12 Parents / Care Givers:** A letter was sent out this week, asking you to book interview times for the Parent Teacher Interviews in Week 2 next Term, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 1:30pm to 7:30pm. It is important to respond quickly to this letter, to guarantee you get your first choice of interview times. We encourage students to attend these interviews, so they can be part of a 3 way conversation between parents/care givers, the teacher and the student.

Attendance from Year 7-12 Parents on Interview night isn't traditionally high and so this is something we hope to change. Interviews are an important part of your child's development and so it is really important that all parents / care givers make this a priority, and attend.

As with the Year R-6 interviews, we will be collecting 'parent perception data' on the day of the interviews. You will be provided with a brief survey. Your responses will be kept anonymous, and the information used by us as we plan for the future. We thank you in advance for taking the few minutes required to complete the survey

## Year 7-12 New School Uniform

**RDAS Uniform Shop still has limited stock of the New 7-12 Uniforms**

**Opening times: Tuesday 3pm and Friday 8.30am.**

**WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF PLACING ANOTHER BULK ORDER FOR THE 7 -12 UNIFORMS.**

**Order forms were sent home to all 7-12 students in Week 7.**

*To ensure that we have the items in stock for your child please place an order by the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. Samples are in the front office to help assist in sizing.*

**Order Form attached to this newsletter.**

# Harmony Day 2015

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 we celebrated Harmony Day, which is an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity and to encourage respect, equity and inclusion for all people regardless of race, gender or religious beliefs. The theme for Harmony Day this year was 'Everyone Belongs'. Students showed their support for diversity and inclusiveness by wearing orange and participating in Harmony Day activities in their classrooms and in the library. For more information on how you can celebrate Harmony Day at home please visit <http://www.harmony.gov.au/celebrate/#home>.





### **JUNIOR NETBALL REGISTRATIONS 2015**

Junior netball registrations will be open from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015, please email [bulldogshell@hotmail.com](mailto:bulldogshell@hotmail.com) to receive your individual link to the registration page.

Payment of fees (\$120) will need to be paid via online banking or in person at NAB

Registrations close Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015  
*(registrations after this date will incur a late fee)*

## **Roxby Downs Area School**

is seeking expressions of interest for

**Canteen Assistant  
Relief worker**



To help the Canteen Manager in the efficient day-to-day conduct and management of the Canteen when required.

Will be called upon when staffs are ill, away or if Canteen is very busy.

*Job Descriptions are available from: Bev McKenna  
at Roxby Downs Area School Front Office or email  
[Beverley.Mckenna32@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Beverley.Mckenna32@schools.sa.edu.au)*

*Please forward an expression of interest letter including any experience you may have had in the Food Service Industry to Roxby Downs Area School.*

*7 Richardson Place  
Phone: 86710011*

Hours are Casual –flexibility required.

Criminal History Screening will be a pre-requisite.  
Closing **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 4pm**

## Road Safety: Presentations to Years 10, 11 and 12.

SAPOL's Road Safety Section recently attended Roxby Downs Area School and delivered a road safety presentation to Year 12 students entitled "Getting Home Safely", presented by a currently serving police officer. This presentation is designed to empower young people to make informed choices, educated decisions and to foster change through open discussion on subjects such as peer group pressure, choices, risks and consequences associated in driving a motor vehicle. The session documented an actual fatal crash which occurred on 'Muck-up Day', the final day of school when an 18-year-old driver crashed the vehicle he was driving while unlicensed, drink driving and speeding. The crash killed one friend and seriously injured the driver and another friend. SAPOL's presentation explores the crash and the subsequent social and legal consequences with the students.

The presentation to Year 11 students entitled "The Fatal Five", was presented by the same police officer. This powerful and interactive program discussed road safety issues, including the causes of road crashes such as fatigue, alcohol and drugs, speed, risk-taking, peer pressure, driver attitudes, and ways in which to reduce the risk of becoming a crash statistic. This program incorporates using contemporary government road safety messaging through partnership with the Motor Accident Commission (MAC).

In Year 10, the focus was on discussing the methods of obtaining a driver's licence; the conditions relating to Learner and Provisional licences; the risks associated with driving; and why being a passenger in a vehicle driven by a young person is potentially risky. The program included discussions on crash risks, speeding, alcohol and drugs, fatigue and driver attitudes to road safety.

The Road Safety Section also provides a free bi-monthly e-newsletter 'Talkin Road Safety' to schools which provides articles on road safety which are of interest to drivers and other road-users.

There are a number of web sites which may be of further value to you and the students.

- [raa.com.au](http://raa.com.au)
- [mylicence.sa.gov.au](http://mylicence.sa.gov.au)
- [sapolice.sa.gov.au](http://sapolice.sa.gov.au)
- [howsafeisyourcar.com.au](http://howsafeisyourcar.com.au)

For any further information on Road Safety please feel free to contact the Road Safety Section on 82076586 or by Email: [DLSAPOLRoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:DLSAPOLRoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au)

Tony Holden

