



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 96 TERM 1, Thursday 27th February, 2014

Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

Important Dates!

February 28 th	R-2 Splash Day
March 5 th	7-12 Assembly
March 7 th	R-6 Assembly
March 10 th	Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
March 11 th 14 th	Yr 8 Aquatics Camp
March 17 th	SAPOL Visit, Yrs 10-12
March 17 th & 18 th	SCHOOL PHOTOS
March 20 th	HARMONY DAY
March 21 st	3-6 Swimming Carnival
March 24 th & 25 th	WASSAC Pt Lincoln
March 28 th	R-6 Assembly
March 31 st – 4 th April	R-6 Interviews
April 1 st	Year 8 & 9 IMMUNISATIONS

Sister Pat's Quote of the week.

We do not turn older with the years, but we can become newer every year.



R-12 ACQUAINTANCE EVENING

On Tuesday the 11th February, 2014 we hosted our annual R-12 Acquaintance evening. Despite the unpleasant weather conditions, we were fortunate to have some enthusiastic parents and children come into the school to meet and greet with their teachers.

This year we tried something new. We developed a schedule of 15 minute intervals during which time teachers across the school presented an informal talk regarding specific information related to their class/home groups.

Drinks and nibbles were provided in the staffroom throughout the course of the evening. Many thanks to the Parents & Friends for organising the drinks and to all the parents, students and staff who attended.

2014 School Captains & Vice Captains.



L-R: Bill Jones (Vice), Bailey Evans, Mr Steve Bennett, Caroline Wissel & Zoey Male (Vice).



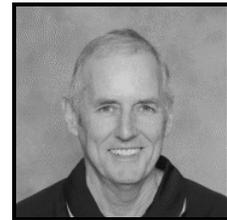
*Steve Bennett
Principal*



*Ann O'Sullivan
Assistant Principal
Senior School*



*Tony White
Assistant Principal
R-6*



*Shane Hodgson
Assistant Principal
Social Inclusion*

Principal's Report.

School Improvement Data: Over the past few weeks I have begun the task of analysing the major data sets provided by DECD in relation to our site, to assist us in our future planning. This information will be shared with parents over the next few editions of the newsletter.

NAPLAN: The 2013 NAPLAN data is very positive, with clear evidence the efforts made to raise literacy and numeracy standards in recent years are succeeding. The NAPLAN results displayed below are the 'mean' or average scores received by our students in the 3 main areas of numeracy, reading and writing. Close analysis of the table below shows that the results in 2013 are the strongest of the past 3 years for the majority of year levels tested. Literacy and Numeracy will continue to be site priorities in 2013, with intervention programmes continuing in both reading and basic number skills.

Year 3	2011	2012	2013
Numeracy	380.5	356.0	379.8
Reading	380.5	369.9	402.6
Writing	406.5	408.7	408.2
Year 5	2011	2012	2013
Numeracy	434.6	464.1	472.6
Reading	440.4	459.1	512.7
Writing	424.4	467.4	478.8

Year 7	2011	2012	2013
Numeracy	486.3	488.1	509.5
Reading	499.0	496.4	523.0
Writing	478.8	468.5	500.8
Year 9	2011	2012	2013
Numeracy	538.5	548.0	540.9
Reading	546.8	552.8	545.2
Writing	529.9	472.7	507

Attendance Data: The attendance data from 2013 fell below the target set for all DECD schools. Students were absent for 20.5 days on average in 2013 (89.3% attendance) compared with the systems target of 13.7 days (93% attendance). Analysis of the data provides the following statistics:

- 214 students (32.4%) were absent between 0 to 10 days.
- 212 students (32.3%) were absent between 11 to 20 days.
- 123 students (18.7%) were absent between 21 to 30 days.
- 56 students (8.5%) were absent between 31 to 40 days.
- 52 students (7.9%) were absent greater than 41 days.

Analysis of the reason given for the 13,523.5 days of absence gives the following breakdown:

- Absent for 'family' reasons: 4097 days 30.3% of all absences.
- Absent without a reason (unexplained): 3917 days 29.0% of all absences
- Absent, due to illness: 3181 days 23.5% of all absences.
- Absent with an Exemption (travel/ holiday): 1952 days 14.4% of all absences.

This data indicates that a significant percentage of our students (35.3%), have an attendance issue. Due to the strong correlation between attendance and academic performance, the impact of these absences must be affecting the success of these students at school. ***Only 23.5% of the current absences are listed as sickness***, meaning the other 76.5% need to be scrutinised. We all want the very best for our children, and so if your child is one of the 35.3% identified above, their future prosperity and success is being seriously jeopardised by their rate of absence. The slogan "Every Day Counts" is going to be our catch phrase as we try to impress upon every parent that missing a day of school will have an effect on their child's learning, and so absences need to be closely monitored by all parents. Our school is currently developing an attendance action plan and we will look to put strategies in place to address this issue, and to provide support for parents. I'll share these with parents in our next newsletter.

Electronic Newsletter: We are looking to move to an electronic newsletter by the beginning of Term 2, emailing out the newsletter to parents. Parents without an email account will continue to receive a printed copy. The last newsletter for the term will be emailed out as well as being sent out in printed form. If you have altered your home email address since the start of the year, please pass this information on to the school a.s.a.p. *Please see back page of this newsletter.*

Kind Regards, Steve Bennett, Principal RDAS



EYRE 611
FROME 599
GAIRDNER 328
TORRENS 260



YOUTH 2014 TERM 1

**7th FEB POOL NIGHT SAUSAGES SIZZLE— MEET AT
THE TOWN POOL 7:30PM**

14th FEB GOING DEEPER - MICK'S HOUSE

21st FEB OLYMPICS NIGHT - AT CHURCH

28th FEB GOING DEEPER - MICK'S HOUSE

7th MARCH CHURCH DEALING WITH THE INTERNET -

● **14th MARCH GOING DEEPER - MICK'S HOUSE**

● **21st MARCH FADS - CHURCH**

● **28th MARCH GOING DEEPER - MICK'S HOUSE**

4th APRIL BOWLING - WOOMERA

11th APRIL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

We meet at 7:30–9:30 at Roxby Downs Christian Community Church (the one with three crosses out front) on Burgoyne street for activity nights and Mick's house for Going Deeper discussion nights, 6:30 to 8:30—contact Mick for address.

FOR MORE DETAILS PHONE

MICK CANTELL 0407 902 986

SONNY LEIS 0422 661 057

KEREN LUKE 0457 435 833

HARMONY DAY 2014

Harmony day will be celebrated in our school on **Thursday 20th March**. A chance for students, parents, staff and community members to promote kindness, tolerance and social harmony. It is also an opportunity to work together to eliminate racial discrimination.

The colour for harmony day is **ORANGE** and the theme for 2014 is

TOGETHER WE CAN

On this day students can wear a national costume or something orange.

Appropriate school wear guidelines still apply.



ROXBY DOWNS AREA SCHOOL

are seeking a

CANTEEN ASSISTANT

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

Job Description and Person Specifications are available from: Bev McKenna
at Roxby Downs Area School Front Office. or Phone: 8671 0011.
Hours: 20 hours casual per week.

Closing date for applications – **Monday 3rd March, 2014 4pm**
Employment start date: Tuesday March 11th, 2014

ROXBY DOWNS AREA SCHOOL PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 12th March, 2014.

Time: 7pm

Location: RDAS Staff Room

Light Supper Provided.

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

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

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Enquiries contact Vern – 0428 710 596

Mick's messages:



Hi everyone.

Hope you are all going well and getting back into the swing of things.

"Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it."

Greg Anderson

Don't just focus on finishing this year, take time to enjoy the journey, it will help with dealing with the challenges that will come throughout life!

Every day of our lives we have work that needs to be done, whether that is assignments at school, house work, or projects at work there will always be more. Don't allow those things to chip away at you and rob you of your joy; learn to find the joy in doing those things because they are a part of your life that will always be there.

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



ROXBYP DOWNS AREA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is produced every fortnight and a hard copy is sent to families via the youngest in the family. The Newsletter can also be accessed online via our school website. www.rdas.sa.edu.au

- From the **RDAS Home Page** - Click on the **Information** Tab on Menu Bar and Click on **Newsletter**

Our intention is to send the newsletter out via email from the beginning of Term 2. Hard copies will still be available to those without email addresses.

Please note: If you do not have access to the internet please indicate on the form below. You will then receive a hard copy of the newsletter which will be given to your child to bring home.

To ensure we have your current email address, please take the time to fill in details below and return as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

Principal,
Roxby Downs Area School



Please return to Homegroup Teacher or RDAS Front Office – Thank you

PARENT/CAREGIVER EMAIL ADDRESS FOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

I/We have an email address

I/We will view the newsletter on-line and do not require a hard (paper) copy:

I/We do not have access to use email or internet and require a hard (paper) copy :

STUDENT NAME:.....Homegroup Class.....

Siblings: (if any).....

Parents Signature:..... Parent Name:.....

<i>Office Use Only:</i>			
Entered:	EDSAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No internet access:	Hard Copy Listing/s	<input type="checkbox"/>	Class <input type="checkbox"/>