



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 95 TERM 1 Thursday, 6th February, 2014

Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

Important Dates!

February 10 th – 21 st	R-7 Swimming
February 11 th	AQUAINTANCE NIGHT 6pm
February 15 th	Market Day Saturday
February 20 th	7-12 Swimming Carnival
February 21 st	R-12 Student Leader Inductions
February 26 th	7-12 Sports Day
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 21 st	3-6 Swimming Carnival

Sister Pat's Quote of the week.

Memories are like gems; tuck them away
in the treasure chest of your mind.
Never let them go.



NEW RECEPTION STUDENTS TERM 1, 2014



PARENTS AND FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held on the 12/3/14 at
7pm in the staffroom.
All welcome.

NEWSLETTER

Please be aware that we will now be publishing a
newsletter fortnightly.
Weeks 2,4,6,8 & 10.
We are in the process of setting up an electronic version
that will be distributed via email in the near future.



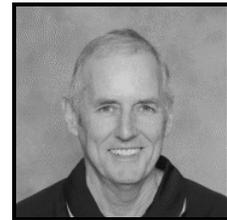
*Steve Bennett
Principal*



*Ann O'Sullivan
Assistant Principal
Senior School*



*Tony White
Assistant Principal
R-6*



*Shane Hodgson
Assistant Principal
Social Inclusion*

Principal's Report.

I would like to welcome back all staff, students and parents to what we trust will be a very successful and rewarding year in 2014. I am really excited about my role as Principal of Roxby Downs AS for the next 5 years and look forward to working closely with the whole school community. I would like to publicly thank Bek Pressler for her efforts in leading the school in Semester 2 of 2013. I have enjoyed a smooth transition into the position, thanks largely to the efforts of Bek and the previous Principal, Kath Macalister.

The two weeks of school in 2014 have been extremely challenging due to the heat, and the breakdown of a number of air conditioners on site, a tough introduction to the 51 new Reception students who commenced at RDAS in 2014. Our student numbers have grown slightly, with a school enrolment of 608 for 2014. Due to the commencement of the 'single intake' model this year, this number should remain reasonably stable throughout the year. Our Primary staffing budgets are based around Junior Primary class sizes of 23 (on average) and on Yr 3-6 class sizes of 30 (on average). All classes in Yr R-6 are already close to these averages.

Leadership Structure: In 2014 the school has 2 tiers of leadership, an Executive group comprising the 3 Assistant Principals (Tony White (R-6), Ann O'Sullivan (7-12) and Shane Hodgson (Social Inclusion R-12) and myself as Principal. We also have a number of Coordinator positions in 2014. Each of these staff have a major role in managing a number of school wide focus areas in 2014; Literacy (Georgie Wilson), Wellbeing/ Counselling R-12 (Beth Elliot), ICT (Andrew Hudson) Trade Training Centre (Tony Holden), R-2 (Sally Cormack), 3-6 (Julie Greenfield), Middle School (Chris Jones) and Senior School (Lee Copeland). Belinda Ramsay has won a project role in 2014 and so will have a very important role to play in the development of Numeracy in 2014.

New Staff: We welcome 3 new teaching staff to our school in 2014; Jasper Bird (Secondary Maths/ Science), Karina Darling (Yr 4/5) and Lia Jordan (Yr 4). 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.

Key priorities for 2014: Our school will focus on 3 key improvement priorities in 2014; Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing, while at the same time continuing our work with staff in implementing the Australian Curriculum. As well as this, there will also be a continuing focus on our senior secondary subject offerings and pathways for senior students, to ensure we cater for the needs of all students. With all of this on our agenda, 2014 promises to be a busy year.

Hats and Uniforms: The Governing Council Uniform Policy will be reviewed in 2014 and so parents are encouraged to begin considering ideas for improvement. DECD are very clear in their mandate to schools, "that the GC Uniform Policy needs to be enforced by the staff within the school" and so there is a clear expectation that all students are to be in the correct school uniform. The school recently purchased a new style of shorts (with pockets) and so I'm sure these will become popular with the students. The staff will need the cooperation and support of parents in implementing this policy. We would rather not begin the day with a negative conversation with a student, who for some misguided reason, thinks the uniform policy doesn't apply to them. If you have any queries in relation to uniform please don't hesitate to contact me.

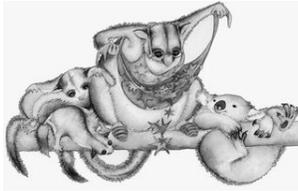
Acquaintance Night: Our R-12 Acquaintance night will be held next Tuesday, 11th February, starting at 6pm. The structure of the night will provide parents with the opportunity to meet with their child's care group teacher and be provided with general information in relations to our plans and expectations for 2014. A BBQ will be provided on the night and so I encourage all parents to make the time to attend. I look forward to meeting as many parents as possible throughout the night.

Kind Regards, Steve Bennett

Year 1's & 2's immersed in Literacy -A "Possum Magic" experience-

Miss Smith's Year 2 class and Mrs Cormack's/Christall's Year 1-2 class were immersed in some great Australian literature during the first week of school – Possum Magic by Mem Fox. The highlight was a joint Possum Magic party on Friday 31st of January involving students (who were dressed as possums) sampling the many treats around Australia – Anzac biscuits in Adelaide; Mornay and Minties in Melbourne, good old Vegemite Sandwiches in the far north of Australia (Darwin), Steak and salad in Sydney; Pumpkin Scones in Brisbane; scrumptious pavlova in Perth and Lamingtons in Hobart. Oh what fun was had by all with children's imaginations stimulated through a fantastic literacy experience and geographical skills were enhanced as we journeyed around Australia! Good work possums!

By Mrs Cormack/Miss Smith
Year 1 & 2 Teachers



Mick's messages:



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.

I just want to leave with this story:

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions. Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water." The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference." The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

You may not be able to help everyone in the world but you can make a difference to those who are in your world!!

Make a positive choice this year and choose to make a positive difference to those in your world because you can!!

Michael Cantell is the RDAS Christian Pastoral Support Worker.

He provides pastoral care and support to students, staff and families and is at school on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. He can be contacted through phoning the school. 86710011 or email michael.cantell237@schools.sa.edu.au

Trade Training Centre Update

Building is well underway and progress has been steady. Unfortunately, the hot weather has caused slight delays as some days were just too hot to be handling steel, or for contractors to be out in the open. Estimated time of completion for both stages of construction is now the end of May, 2014. Stage One should be completed and handed over by the end of March.

I remind staff, students, parents and visitors to remain vigilant when using the site's car park facilities. At the moment the entry and exit signs are covered as it is not always practical for some heavy vehicles to enter or exit via the designated driveways. As much as practically possible, please enter and exit the premises as you would if the signs were in action, but be extra alert for vehicles facing, or moving in what appears to be the wrong direction. I would remind all members of the school community and general public that it is an offence to tamper with a sign that has been covered through approved means. The signs MUST remain covered until declared safe to 'revert to normal' by the Building Site Supervisor, Mr Oliver Cibi.

The fenced areas of the building site remain out-of-bounds to all members of the public, school staff and students.

Mr Tony Holden – Trade Training Centre Coordinator

Bushfire Season

After a very hot January, the trend for Roxby Downs to experience temperatures in excess of 40 degrees continues into February and possibly March. Please remain alert to the dangers of bushfire and have a plan of action in place to follow in the case of emergency.

Roxby Downs Area School is currently formulating its 2014 Bushfire Action Plan (BAP) and a draft of this will be presented to staff in the next week or two. The Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) mandates that all sites will have a BAP approved by their Governing Council and a copy of this will appear on our website when finalised in the next couple of weeks.

Mr Tony Holden – RDAS Fire Warden & Workplace Health & Safety Staff Rep.

Advance Notice

Ms Kelly Harris Year 10 class will be undertaking work experience in Week 11 this term, as part of their RITE subject. They will be completing various career investigation activities, as well as components of Workplace Health & Safety in preparation for this. During the next few weeks, students will be trying to secure an employer who is willing to take them on for a week. RDAS recognises and appreciates those employers that continually support the school in this way and urges any employer who might like to get involved to contact the school and let us know. It is a big commitment to take on a work experience student and as a relatively small community, opportunities for students are limited. We therefore, are really grateful to those employers who take on our students every semester. Mr Lee Copeland's Year 10 class will do their work experience in Week 10 of Term 3.

Mr Tony Holden – RITE (Roxby Industry Training & Education) teacher

SACE 2013

2013 was a significant year for our senior students with our biggest Year 12 cohort. Overall our students performed well with 95% of students completing the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), as well as a variety of Vocational Education Training (VET) courses including Certificate 3 in Workplace Health and Safety and Certificate 2 in Engineering and Automotive. Numerous students were successful in gaining entry into the university courses of their choice, full time employment, apprenticeships and TAFE. Congratulations to all of our Year 12's of 2013 for their success and all the best for their future.

Congratulations to Danielle Weir who is the Dux of RDAS for 2013.

Year 11 students worked hard to complete the requirements of stage one of the SACE, and many took advantage of the opportunities provided by the school and the local community to complete significant VET training including Certificate 2 & 3 in retail, and beginning the Certificate 2 in engineering and Automotive. A number of students also took the opportunity to achieve 20 credits at Stage 2 level by undertaking Sport study. A number of these students have also had the good fortune to obtain apprenticeships and we congratulate them.

We are excited about 2014. This year sees our highest Year 11 and 12 enrolments for the second consecutive year and we look forward to working with students, families and the community to ensure this year's cohort has a very successful year.

ROXBY DOWNS AREA SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

SUMMER: GIRLS

School dress (purchased from Uniform Shop)
or made from existing school material.

OR

Shorts: Navy shorts
RDAS logo basketball shorts
Basketball mesh shorts

With **Red, White** OR **Navy** polo shirt with
school logo or plain.

LONG SHORTS

(mid thigh-Knee – measured by the students
middle finger when arm is held straight by their
side)

SUMMER: BOYS

Shorts: Navy shorts in various styles
Navy basketball mesh shorts
RDAS logo basketball shorts

With **Red, White** OR **Navy** polo shirt with
school logo or plain

LONG SHORTS

(mid thigh-Knee – measured by the students
middle finger when arm is held straight by their
side)

HATS: (No Beanies)

The Uniform Shop stock 2 styles of hats for sale
in Navy blue. They are as follows:

Bucket hat
Slouch hat with RDAS logo.

FOOTWEAR:

Covered footwear is required for Year 6
- 12 when engaging in Practical lessons
due to OHS&W standards.
Sandals, school shoes and sports shoes.
No thongs, reef sandals, masseur sandals
No boots eg Ugg boots.

WINTER: GIRLS

R - 5 School pinafore or skirt in winter school
fabric.

6 - 12 Navy blue skirt (fabric available from
Uniform Shop).

With **Red, White** or **Navy** polo shirt with school
logo or plain, white blouse or skivvy.

OR

R-12 Navy blue sports pants
track and field pants
parachute/fleecy fabric track pants
denim jeans (neat, straight legged blue -
no baggies or brand names)

With **Red, White** or **Navy** polo shirt with school
logo or plain, white or navy blouse or skivvy.

Jumpers:

RDAS windcheater with logo
RDAS Hooded jumper
Navy blue, red or white windcheater

WINTER: BOYS

Fitted navy pants or navy blue sports
pants (with no artwork designs or logos
other than small embroidered symbols)
denim jeans (neat, straight legged blue -
no baggies)

With **Red, White** or **Navy** polo shirt with school
logo or plain, white or navy shirt or skivvy.

Jumpers:

RDAS windcheater with logo
Navy blue, red or white windcheater

2013 ROXBY DOWNS AREA SCHOOL MAGAZINE

STILL AVAILABLE - LIMITED COPIES

100 page book printed on Glossy colour pages

The cost of the Magazine is **\$20.00**

Preview at Front Office – *Great pictorial memories for student future years.*

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Sat/Sun
1 28/1-31/1	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Aust Day	1 ST Day Back for Students				
2 3/2-7/2	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming L3 –(Yr 10) 7-12 Assembly	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming	
3 10/2-14/2	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming Acquaintance Night 6pm	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming	MARKET DAY SAT 15 TH
4 17/2-21/2	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming	R-7 Swimming SWIMMING CARNIVAL 7-12	R-7 Swimming R-12 Student Leader inductions	
5 24/2-28/2	R-7 Swimming Catch up Day		SPORTS DAY 7-12		R-2 SPLASH DAY	
6 3/3-7/3			L3 –(Yr 11) 7-12 Assembly		R-6 Assembly	
7 10/3-14/3	PUBLIC HOLIDAY ADELAIDE CUP	Year 8 Aquatics Camp	Year 8 Aquatics Camp	Year 8 Aquatics Camp	Year 8 Aquatics Camp	MARKET DAY SAT 15 TH
8 17/3-21/3		School Photos	School Photos		3-6 Swimming Carnival.	
9 24/3-28/3	WASSAC Pt Lincoln	WASSAC Pt Lincoln			R-6 Assembly	
10 31/3-4/4	R-6 Interviews	7-12 Interviews 7pm School Hall R-6 Interviews	R-6 Interviews	L1 –(Yr 9) 7-12 Assembly R-6 Interviews	AMAZING RACE 10-12 R-6 Interviews	
11 7/4-11/4	Year 10 Work Experience Year 11 Outdoor Ed. Camp					