Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

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).
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>380.5</td>
<td>356.0</td>
<td>379.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>380.5</td>
<td>369.9</td>
<td>402.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>406.5</td>
<td>408.7</td>
<td>408.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<td>464.1</td>
<td>472.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>440.4</td>
<td>459.1</td>
<td>512.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>424.4</td>
<td>467.4</td>
<td>478.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>488.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>499.0</td>
<td>496.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>478.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<td>540.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>552.8</td>
<td>545.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>529.9</td>
<td>472.7</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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.
ROXY DOWN 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

ROXY DOWN 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
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:……………………………………

Office Use Only:
Entered: EDSAS ☐
No internet access: Hard Copy Listing/s ☐ Class ☐