FATHER’S NIGHT

On Thursday the 4\textsuperscript{th} of September Roxby Downs Area School R-2 classes held Father’s Night in their classrooms. Before Father’s Night we needed to make our presents and cards for our dad. Miss Smith went to the shops and bought ingredients to make tiny teddy cookies. She also bought smarties, donuts and Oreo cookies for the ‘minute to win it’ games. We made chocolate cookies on Tuesday afternoon and made tiny teddy cars on Wednesday. While Miss Smith wrapped the cookies in cellophane, we made our dad a special card.

At 7pm on Thursday night we got dressed in some nice clothes and drove to school with our dad. No Mums allowed! When we got to our classroom we started to do some activities. Latika versed her dad, Kotti, in a donut eating competition. It was very messy! Peyton, Jaxton and their dads, Donald and Lucas, competed against each other in the cup castle ‘minute to win it’ game. The cups were sticking together which made it hard for Peyton and Jaxton to win. Lucy, Chelsea B, Aemelia and Pulitha beat their dads at the MnM challenge by sucking the MnMs onto their straws and dropping them onto a plate. Riley and Indy were the only ones to wiggle the Oreo into their mouths in the Oreo challenge. Martika and her dad, Robert, worked together to complete the cereal box puzzle in less than one minute. Traci and Declan taught their dads how to play the math subtraction game using a dice while Saira and her dad, David, coloured in some Minions together.

At 8pm parents and children started to leave to go home. Some of us needed to get home to go to bed while others went home to have their dinner. We had a great night at Father’s Night with our dads. It was fun to spend some special time with them and the ‘minute to win it’ games were awesome. It was a fantastic night.

Written by Miss Smith’s Year 2 class
Information Technology Update:

One of our key site priorities in 2014 has been to address the needs of our school community with Information Technology. We are living in a world that has a growing reliance on technology for every aspect of our lives and so it is critical that we provide our students with the types of skills and capabilities that prepare them for their future.

We have some outstanding resources within our school in ICT, most notably our 3D printing and laser cutter which has enabled us to establish courses of excellence in Computer Aided Design (CAD), but on the whole, our students and teachers lack the same level of access to ICT that is taken for granted by many schools across the system. We have identified 3 key challenges:

- **Whole School Infrastructure**: Our school infrastructure systems, that provides connectivity between computers across the site, security provisions and connectivity to the internet, is now over 7 years old and is struggling to support the volume of computers we currently have in the school.
- **Classroom Technology**: Approximately 50% of our classrooms are fitted with Interactive White Board (IWB) technology, some of which are only 2 years old, but the units that have been installed across the school are a variety of different brands. This means that the sharing of resources between teachers has been limited and students going from one year level to the next either move into a room without an IWB, or find the technology is different.
- **Student Access to Computers**: Our Year 12 students have access to laptops, but the other 580 students in our school are sharing a total of approximately 100 computers, which falls significantly below the student-computer ratios that were being recommended by the Federal Government in 2010.

The ICT Committee, led by Andrew Hudson (ICT Coordinator) and with Chris Barry (Computer Systems Manager), Anna Gubbin (Yr. R-6 Rep), Tony Holden (Yr. 7-12 Rep/DESTTC Coordinator) and Miriam Alford (GC Rep), have been very proactive in 2014 to put in place a Strategic Plan to address these current challenges, and through funding, have implemented a number of important initiatives:

- **We** contracted one of DECD’s approved computer contractors, USG, in early April, to do a needs analysis on our ‘School infrastructure’. Their brief was to provide us with a quote to fully upgrade our system, providing us with the capacity that will enable every student in the school to be working on a computer at the same time across the school. The projected cost to undertake this work is $100,000. This project has been approved and work will commence in mid-November to ensure we are ready for the start of the 2015 school year.
- **We** have made the important decision to sell all existing IWB’s, and start afresh in equipping all classrooms across the school with the same technology, to facilitate the ability of teachers to share initiatives and to provide a consistent approach for all students. Some of the older units were close to needing replacement and the newer units will have good resale value. We purchased 7 new units in July, at a cost of $38,000, to fit out all classrooms from Year 3 to 6. Ideally we would like to buy an additional 30+ units in December, to enable the whole school to operate effectively from the beginning of 2015, but this will largely depend on our finances. At the very least, we will be aiming to fully equip classes in Year R-9, ready for the start of 2015.
Providing student access to iPads, notebooks, laptops and PC’s needs to be a major focus. A set of 22 iPads were purchased recently, to be shared between classes participating in the Digital Learning Project, which is a start but still well short of where we need to be. To meet the needs of students in Year 7-12, we have been working closely with USG and HP Computers, to launch a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative, the only conceivable way we can make it possible to provide computer access to students.

Information about the BYOD programme, including a parent survey has been emailed out to parents of students in Years 6-12. This initiative will possibly be extended to include Year 3-6 in 2015. Ongoing cuts to Educational Budgets and the winding up of the Federal Government Digital Education Revolution (DER) funding has necessitated this change not just here at RDAS, but in schools all across the State.

How does BYOD work? We have scheduled a parent meeting for **Tuesday 14th October**, where HP will provide details of the laptop computer they will be marketing to staff and students.

**It is very important that every parent with students in Year 6-11 attend this parent meeting.** The general concept of BYOD is as follows:

- Parents and staff can purchase a laptop at a significant saving on the recommended retail price, likely to be at a base price of approximately $730. Leasing terms will be made available over 3 years, bringing the commitment to approx. $20 per month for those families who would prefer this payment option.
- The laptop on offer is a robust educational model, with specifications and components that you don’t find in consumer models sold through the large computer stores. These models also have a much longer shelf life than consumer models.
- The software (an expensive component of any computer purchase) would be provided by the school, via a Windows to Go USB. A deposit for this USB will be required but refunded on leaving or finishing school.
- Students will have full use of their laptops while at school, including access to online applications and learning throughout the day, via our newly upgraded infrastructure systems. They will also be able to access their work on the school intranet from home, via an upgraded version of the school’s current ‘virtual desktop’.

**DayMap**

The school has continued its work in developing the DayMap operating system in 2014. By the end of 2014, our attendance data, assessment and reporting processes and communication systems with parents will be operating through this management and e-learning system. One of the highlights of DayMap is the ‘Parent Portal’, which provides parents direct access electronically to their child’s electronic data at school, including; programmes, daily timetables, homework, attendance data and student behaviour management data and also the ability to direct message the students teachers. We were hoping to be able to give secondary parents access to this before now, but have been held up by a series of infra-structure issues.

We are planning to demonstrate the parent portal at our **BYOD presentation evening in Week 1 of Term 4** and parents will be able to have immediate access to the Parent Portal from this date. In preparation for this, please make sure your email address registered with the school is up to date; if you are unsure you can check this with front office staff.

**Survey** - We are seeking feedback from parents of Yr. 6-11 students regarding BYOD, and a survey is underway. A link to the online survey can be found below; otherwise hard copies will be available from the Front Office.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DGXL52P](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DGXL52P)
Desert Trade Training Centre (DESTTC) – Official Opening.

Last Thursday, 11 September, 2014 the DESTTC had its official opening ceremony. Organised by Mr Tony Holden, DESTTC Coordinator, the opening was well attended and included dignitaries Mr Rowan Ramsey MP Member for Grey; Mr Eddie Hughes SA MP, Member for Giles; and Mr Ian May Education Director for Far North Region. BHP Executive Mr Cornel Parshotam attended and spoke to the audience on behalf of BHP Billiton and its links with community and education.

Mr Steve Bennett Lead Principal of DESTTC was an unfortunate apology and late withdrawal from the official party. He was ably represented by Mrs Ann O’Sullivan who did an extremely good job of delivering the speech on behalf of Steve and also led the tour party on their exclusive tour of the new facilities.

The ceremony was MC’d by School Captain, Caroline Wissell who did an excellent job introducing each speaker and looked resplendent in our new school uniform. She was supported by fellow-captain, Bailey Evans.

One of the highlights of the day was welcoming back past Principal Kath Macalister. Both Kath and Juliette Demaine were acknowledged by numerous speakers for their tireless efforts in preparing the original submissions for DESTTC. Kath enjoyed catching up with staff and students and commented positively on the many changes that were evident since her departure just 12 months ago. She was particularly impressed with the new CAD (Computer Aided Design) Room and the 3D printers and laser cutter.

Mr Andrew Hudson was on hand to show the invited guests around this centre, as part of the official tour and to explain to dignitaries the role that CAD plays as part of DESTTC. Andrew used the laser cutter to actually make the plaque that was dedicated as part of the ceremony. Ms Kristy Mackenzie did a great job mounting the plaque and providing the ribbon that Mr Rowan Ramsey MP cut to officially open the DESTTC.

Everyone present commented favourably on the excellent job that Mrs Tanya Fry and her year 11 Food and Hospitality students did catering for the event. The food was plentiful, delicious and extremely well-prepared. Both the students and Mrs Fry are to be commended for the effort they put into presentation and preparation for this event and I would highly recommend them in catering for any major function.

A special mention must also go to our Groundsman, Mr Steve Marsh. Steve spent considerable time and effort ensuring the grounds were clean, tidy and well-presented, only to see all his hard work undone by not one, but two major wind storms. He did have the grounds in tip-top condition for the day and it was pleasing to see our school presented in such a tidy manner.

Many other people contributed to making the occasion a success and I apologise to anyone I have inadvertently omitted to thank. I would like to mention the help from the SSO’s in the front office, particularly Bev McKenna. Bev took care of the invitations as well as the printing of the program. She maintained a list of acceptances and kept me updated on the requirements of our dignitaries. All of the ladies in the front office were a great support.

To everyone who contributed, many thanks; it was a huge success – now the real work starts.

Mr Tony Holden
The ‘Library Lion’

All attention was on the screen as Special Class listened to Mindy Sterling narrate the ‘Library Lion’ story.

David demonstrated excellent ‘Listening for Information’ skills when he told us that he heard her read,

“The lion licked envelopes and dusted shelves because he was helping in the library”.

Sports Day Recount

On the 5th of September the 3-6 participated in Sports Day. The weather was perfect to compete in the track and field activities. First we had to go to school and get put into our age groups.

The events we competed in were high jump, long jump, long run, sprints, relays, novelty events, shot-put, tug-a-war and discus.

The team’s names were Frome (blue), Gairdner (yellow), Eyre (red) and Torrens (green).

At the start of the day and the end of the day the teams took turns singing/shouting their war cries. During the day groups took turns having a break and eating their recess.

The best thing of the day was all the students enjoying themselves and not putting down each other. Heaps of people were supporting their teams and supporting the other teams.

When all of the individual activities had finished we still all had one activity to run. It was the relays. After they finished the house captains and adults went in the student vs teacher vs parents’ race.

After all the relays had finished the teams competed in tug-a-war. The day was brilliant and the overall winner for the day was Gairdner. In second place was Frome, then Torrens and in last place was Eyre.

By Corinna
3-6 SPORTS DAY RESULTS

GAIRDNER – 964 points
FROME – 946 points
TORRENS – 864 points
EYRE – 817 points
On Friday the 5th of September, the R-2 Students enthusiastically gathered to participate in our annual sports day, “The Roxby Games”. With perfect weather conditions and a selection of 6 exciting events including the Aussie thong throw, mini hurdles, vortex throw and shot-put, the morning was set to be a good one!

The event commenced with a parade across to the town oval with each class dressed in team colours and waving flags bearing local fauna mascots such as “Golden Goannas”, “Deadly Dingoes” and “Sporty Snakes”.

Great team spirit was observed throughout the event as students cheered each other on as well as individuals having a go and trying their best.

A fantastic group of parents assisted classes, participated in events and provided plenty of words of encouragement. Some Year 7 students also attended and demonstrated their leadership flair and support!

At the conclusion of events students were delighted to be presented with ribbons to acknowledge their excellent participation and sportsmanship.

A huge thankyou to all involved in making the event an enjoyable and successful one.

Ally Christall
R-2 Coordinator
This year some of our senior students are fortunate enough to be participating in the South Australian Aboriginal sports training academy program SAASTA. We will be linking up with students from Coober Pedy Area School.

Coffee With Kerry

When: Friday mornings
Where: Yakarti room
Time: 9:30 till 11:00

Yakarti families welcome to come in for a cuppa and a chat
On Wednesday September 10th, our very excited Primary Choir boarded a big red bus bound for Adelaide. After a morning tea stop in Port Augusta and lunch at Pt Wakefield, we arrived at Adelaide Shores, unpacked and headed straight for the Jumping Pillow!

We ventured to Glenelg for dinner at McDonalds, and were lucky to be joined by some Grandparents and other relatives. A brisk walk on the jetty was very exciting for our desert kids! Upon our return to Adelaide Shores, we realised that most kids had over-indulged at the Golden Arches, so we decided to forgo supper, and head to bed.

After an early wake-up call, the children excitedly dressed in their RDAS Choir Polo shirts and we drove in to the Festival Theatre for our 3 hour Festival of Music rehearsal. Our students behaved exceptionally, and were praised for their efforts after entering the rehearsal- “Roxby- best choir BY FAR!” was the direct quote. When you consider that there were students from 20 schools there, this was an extraordinary achievement.

After the rehearsal, we picked up Subway for lunch, which was followed by a beach walk. Some children took some liberties with Mrs Prosser’s statement “You may dip your feet in the water...” A few needed a change of clothes before heading to the playground!

Following an early dinner of Steak Sandwiches, the children changed in to their performance clothes, and Mrs Prosser, Kira Griggs and I spent some time hair spraying the girls to within an inch of their lives. Adi and Matija escaped without needing any bobby pins or hair spray. They all looked perfect, so we took some photos and headed in to the city for the performance.

The children were brilliant, and so hyped following the concert. We wondered if we would ever get them to bed, but after some supper and excited chatter, most were asleep by midnight. It was a very quiet trip home to Roxby, with lots of very tired little people (and teachers....).

The best thing about the Festival of Music is that our choir join with 400 other students to make one huge choir. Mrs Prosser and I get to sit in the audience and watch the performance, which often takes our breath away, and leaves us in tears! As always, RDAS kids shone! Their presentation, behaviour and attitude was exceptional, and Mrs Prosser and I could not be prouder of our kids! We were so thankful to the parents, siblings, grandparents, family members and friends who were able to attend our performance. The children were also stoked to have Mr Bennett in the audience this year.

We would like to thank Kira Griggs for attending as a parent/SSO, and Bryan from Greyhound for safely transporting us around.

Jayne Winter
Choir Teacher
Footy Colours Friday

Students came dressed in their footy colours on Friday 12th September and gave a gold coin donation which supports children and teens fighting cancer.

At recess a best dressed competition was held. Winners were: Emily Parker, Ethan Wise and Lachlan Vugts.

At lunch time students from the Youth Health Advisory Group organised and ran a long kick competition for Years 5-12 students and staff and a Handball Competition for R-5 students.

Winners were: Long Kick- Bailey French and Owen Mulady
Handball- Ricki Taylor
Mick’s message:

Hi everyone, hope you are doing well.

A Quote from Tony Robbins says this. “Trade your expectations for appreciation and your whole world changes in an instant!”

We live in a world that we expect everything to be instant, but the instant we don’t get what we want we get stressed, we become agitated, and maybe get angry because what we want hasn’t happened straight away. If we instead chose to appreciate what we have in life, instead of expecting things instantly our whole outlook on life would change.

What things in your life have you just expected to happen and haven’t? Take time and find reasons to appreciate those things in life and watch how your attitude begins to change.

For example take the electronic equipment we have such as, computers and phones, they don’t always work on demand. Instead of getting frustrated because they haven’t worked the instant we want them, to try being thankful for having them in the first place. Only about 5% of people in the world own a computer which is something we can truly be grateful for.

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

ROXBYS DOWNS SCOUT GROUP HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

Dress in Halloween Costume (optional)

Friday 31st October

At the Roxby Leisure Centre

AUDITORIUM

Age Groups 5-10 - (5 - 6.45pm)
11-15 - (7 - 9.30pm)
($10.00 entry fee) Prizes during the night
Tickets on sale, Market day 18th October

Roxby Downs Area School
Front Office opening hours during school holidays

Week 1: Monday – Thursday
29/09/14 – 2/10/14 inclusive.
8.30am – 4pm.
Office will not be open in the 2nd week of holidays.
School resumes on 13th October, 2014.
**HECTIC MAYHEM**

School Holiday Activities for students in grades 3 - 7

Booking Forms available from the Visitor Information Centre or www.roxbydowns.com

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

**Tuesday 30 September**
Design Your Own T-Shirt
@ Roxby Downs Youth Centre
Ever had something you would like to print on a t-shirt? Join our screen printing workshop and design your own t-shirt print and tote bag.
BYO t-shirt to print on.
Time: 10am - 12noon
Cost: $10
Morning tea provided

**Thursday 2 October**
Make a Splash Pool Party
@ RoxbyLINK (meet at kiosk)
Join us for a few hours of action-packed fun and games in the indoor pool.
Time: 10am - 12noon
Cost: FREE
Morning tea provided

**Tuesday 7 October**
Filipino Lantern Making
@ Roxby Downs Youth Centre
Learn how to make parol, a traditional Filipino Lantern in this fun, hands on workshop. Make one to take home and one to display at the World Food and Music Festival on Saturday 18 October.
Time: 10am - 12noon
Cost: FREE
Morning tea provided

**Thursday 9 October**
Just 4 Girls
@ Roxby Downs Youth Centre
Join Body Shop consultants Kylie and Denise for a fun girly pamper day. Each girl will receive a Body Shop gift to take home.
Time: 10am - 12noon
Cost: $10
Morning tea provided

**Friday 10 October**
Learn to Golf
@ Roxby Downs Golf Club
Join Golf Pro, Wade, to learn the game’s basic skills of driving, pitching and putting, while making new friends along the way! A great activity for boys and girls.
Time: 10am - 1pm
Cost: FREE
Morning tea and lunch provided

Don’t forget to visit the RoxbyLINK Library to find out about their school holiday activities!

For further information, please contact Kirsten at Roxby Council on 8671 0010

An initiative of: [Youth Roxby Forums](#)

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