ISSUE 113  TERM 3, Thursday 6th August, 2015
Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

Important Dates!

August 10th  TRANSITION PARENT NIGHT
August 10th & 11th  Odyssey for Boys Yr 8&9 / Yr 10&11
August 10th & 11th  Inspire for Girls Yr 8&9 / Yr 10&11
August 11th  Mathematics Competition
August 12th  SACE PARENT NIGHT 7pm LIBRARY
August 14th  3-6 Assembly 9am School Hall
August 15th  Market Day SATURDAY
August 17th  SAPSASA Basketball
August 17th  Transition Parent Tour
August 19th  R-2, 3-6 SPORTS DAY
August 20th  7-12 SPORTS DAY
August 24-28th  BOOKWEEK
August 25-26th  SACE student counselling Yr 11/Yr10
August 28th  Footy Colours Day

Sister Pat’s Quote of the week.
Other things may change us but we start and end with the family. (A. Brant)

Congratulations Ella!

Ella Ramsey (Year 6) has been selected as a choir soloist in the upcoming Primary School’s Festival of Music. She has also been awarded the Jane Lyall Memorial Scholarship which will provide funding for her to attend an extra rehearsal in Adelaide in late August.
Well done Ella! We are very proud of you. 😊
FROM THE R-6 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

R-6 Assistant Principal Report

It’s been a chilly start to Term 3 but all classes are back in the swing of learning. We have a busy term planned both in and out of classrooms.

Sports Day

The R-6 Sports Days will be held on Wednesday 19th August (Week 5). There were a couple of date changes for Sports Day which was due to other community events being held (Soccer & Dance assessments). We look forward to seeing parents at both events. Further information will be sent home over the coming weeks.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child is dressed in school uniform each day. If your child’s uniform is in the wash please endeavour to send your child to school in our school colours of navy, white and red. Jumpers with big logos and florescent designs are not part of our school uniform.

Parent Transition Evening

Next Monday we are hosting a parent information evening for families who have a student starting in Reception in 2016. All are welcome, the evening commences at 6.30pm in the school library. Please pass this information on to any families you know who might be interested.

Warm wishes,

Bec Eli

RDAS Sports Days

Our RDAS Sports Days for R-2, 3-6 and 7-12 have been moved to Week 5 this term.

This has occurred as a result of sports and activities in and outside of school that would directly clash if left in Week 3.

The new dates and locations are:

R-2 Wednesday 19/8/15 on school oval

3-6 Wednesday 19/8/15 on town oval

7-12 Thursday 20/8/15 on town oval

We apologise for any inconvenience in changing the dates and we hope to see you all there in support of our Roxby Downs Area School Sports Days for 2015.
Welcome back to all students from the July holidays, and a special welcome to the following new students who have joined us over the past few weeks. Our enrolments at the beginning of the year were 613 and currently stand at 624 students.

There are some important events occurring this term, the major two being the Year R-2 and Yr 3-6 Sports Days on Wednesday 19th August and the Year 7-12 Sports day on Thursday 18th August. We recently emailed out a term 3 calendar but as events sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances, please keep a close eye on the school calendar on our website which we update as changes are made.

Staffing Update: The school said farewell to Mrs Karpinski on Friday 31st. Ms Karpinski has gone on maternity leave and as she is transferring back to Adelaide at the end of the year, this was her last day at RDAS. It was a sad day for all but we wish her all the best as she prepares for the birth of her first child and as she and her husband build a new home in Adelaide. Ms Karpinski’s role has been taken by Ms Meredith and so I congratulate her on her appointment and wish her all the best in her role at RDAS from now until the end of the year.

Community Donation: Late last term we were contacted by Tribal Connections, through the initiative of Jude Materoa, to enquire if there was any way they could assist us with our sports programmes at the school. We are currently looking to update some of our interschool uniforms and so this was raised as a priority. As a result, Tribal Connections have donated $650 towards the purchase of new school tops. This is a very generous offer and will be greatly appreciated by the students of our school.

Promotional Video: During 2014, the school contracted 57Films to produce a promotional video for our school, as a means of assisting in the attraction of teachers to our school and as information to parents who are considering applying for work in the local area. There is a small 2 minute video and a longer 10 minute version, with links to both on the front page of our school website.

BYOD Secondary: The number of students who are choosing to ‘Bring Their Own Device’ (computer) to school is gradually on the rise but we still have a long way to go to reach our target of every student from Year 7-12 having their own computer at school. I would strongly encourage parents who have been putting this off to date, to make a commitment to providing this resource to your child between now and the end of the year. Our two main computing rooms are both equipped with computers that are now 7 years old and there is a possibility these rooms will be decommissioned by the end of the year, making it even more crucial that students have access to their own computers at school. Please contact the school if you would like support or information in relation to the BYOD initiative.

Assessment and Reporting: Year R-6: The new Semester 1 report for Years R-6 was prepared using the Day Map software and a great deal of effort went into developing the report to cater for the needs of parents. During term 3 we are reviewing the report format; so if you have any constructive ideas about the report, I encourage you to use the link on the website to provide feedback.

Year 7-12: In term 3, the report will not be printed and sent out, it will be uploaded to your child’s Day Map file so that parents can access the report using the parent Portal, on or around Friday 18th September. A printed copy will be provided for families that don’t have computer access. This new approach has two major benefits, it provides families with an electronic file of the report which makes it much easier to save and store (or email off to grandma) and environmentally, it creates an enormous saving in relation to the number of printed pages produced. In order to down load the reports, parents will need to have access to the parent portal in Day Map, something we have been encouraging all parents to do for 6 months. If you currently don’t have access to the parent portal go onto our website and follow the link and the instructions provided. If you have any problems, please let us know so that we can offer assistance. The portal provides you with up-to-date information about your child and a ready means of communication with your child’s teachers.
Uniform Update: To assist parents in getting ready for the 2016 implementation of the new uniform in Years 7-12, we encourage families to consider bringing forward your purchases to 2015. To facilitate this:

- A large shipment of uniforms has arrived and so we are now fully stocked with all sizes.
- Our current Year 6 students are able to wear the new Year 7-12 uniform from term 4, 2015.
- A Facebook page has been set up to assist parents/carers who may wish to buy or sell second hand uniforms.
- We are offering parents a ‘lay-buy’ option, with goods set aside until full payment is made.

SACE Parent Information Evening

Senior School Subject Counselling for 2016

On **Wednesday August 12th at 7pm**, we have our South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) **Parent Information Evening**, held in the school library. This is a ‘must-attend’ event for anyone with students in Years 11 or 12 in 2016.

During this session parents will receive information on SACE, the subject-counselling process and pathways through senior school and beyond.

If you currently have a student in year 10, then we particularly urge you to attend, with your child, as we will be giving information on compulsory subjects, subject choices and how students attain credits toward University or TAFE entrance.

We also encourage students to accompany their parents so that all key stakeholders are involved in the information-giving process.

There will also be the opportunity for parents / students to ask questions.

Information will be given out about the subject counselling sessions, held in Week 6, this term.

**Year 11’s will not attend school on Tuesday 25th August** – instead they will book an appointment time and attend a counselling session when they will pick their subjects for next year.

**Year 10’s will do the same on the Wednesday 26th August.** Each student and their parent will meet with a counsellor for a 15 minute-session to discuss pathway options and appropriate subjects.

To assist in the subject counselling process, the school **Subject-Choice Handbook** is currently being updated. It will be uploaded to the school website and available online before the end of this week (Week 3 – Friday 7th August).

We look forward to meeting with parents of all our senior students in the coming weeks, commencing with the SACE Information Evening on the 12th August. Meanwhile, if you have concerns please do not hesitate to call us at the school.

Tony Holden
7-12 Assistant Principal

Lee Copeland
10-12 Coordinator
Hello, my name is Silvie O’Connor and I am the new Pastoral Care Worker providing a Chaplaincy Service at Roxby Downs Area School. Pastoral Care Workers offer a unique dimension of care and support to all members of the school community. My aim is to be a positive role model and to provide compassionate understanding and practical ongoing support to students and families. I will also be working alongside and complementing other welfare and wellbeing staff in the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a little background about myself.

I am one of 10 children of Irish lineage. My mother and her first husband immigrated to Australia after the war with five of my siblings (4 of whom are now deceased). I was born in Australia with three other sisters to a different father who struggled with addictions and mental health issues. My childhood was very unstable and full of uncertainties. On two separate occasions three of my younger sisters and I were placed in orphanages for an extended period because our parents could not provide for us.

As a child I suffered from anxiety and depression and as a consequence I left home at the young age of 14. I became very fearful of my future and at one point contemplated suicide. At 16 I became a Christian and from that day forward my life had purpose and meaning. That didn’t mean every thing was perfect, it just meant I was no longer alone and I could look forward to a future without fear.

My husband and I are blessed with two daughters and a beautiful grand daughter who live with us in Roxby. My family are loving being a part of this vibrant community and look forward to many more rewarding years living in the desert.

As the School Pastoral Care Worker, I will be available in the yard at various break times, will work alongside teachers and students in the classroom, and I will be an extra resource to staff in supporting extra-curricular events and activities. I also provide a Christian presence in the school on behalf of the local churches.

I will be at the school on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s and can be contacted by parents/care-givers and students through the front office. I am really looking forward to assisting the school staff to provide the best outcomes for students and their families.

Kindest regards,
Silvie
ROXBYS AREA
SCHOOL

Parent Information
Session
An Introduction to
Roxby Downs Area School

MONDAY
10th August 2015
Venue:
RDAS—Library
6.30 – 7.30 pm

School Values
R-2 Programs
Expectations
Orientation Program
ROXBURY DOWNS AREA SCHOOL

**Transition School Tours - Term 3**
Monday 17th August
Monday 24th August
Monday 31st August
9.00am - 9.30am

**Tuesday**
**School Orientation Program - Term 4**

- Tuesday 20th - Thursday 22nd October 8.30 am — 10.10 am
- Tuesday 27th - Thursday 29th October 8.30 am — 11.25 am
- Tuesday 3rd - Thursday 5th November 8.30 am — 1.25 pm
- Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th November 8.30 am — 2.55 pm
- Tuesday 17th - Thursday 19th November 8.30 am — 2.55 pm
Footy Colours Friday

Friday Week 6, 28th August. Dress in your favourite sporting team colours. Please send a gold coin donation with your child/ren, this will be donated to the Fight Cancer Foundation to support young children living with cancer. Any families wishing to make a further donation to this great cause please send with your child in an envelope.

Student voice will be running some activities on this day at lunch time including students & teachers longest kick and handball competitions. We encourage all students to participate in this fun and worthwhile cause, and it ties in nicely with the local football Grand Final the following day. Please support your children to dress up for the day, for any further details please contact Beth Elliott or Kate Bennie on 86710011.
Student Voice Disco

Student voice will be holding a school disco for primary students on Friday Week 8, 11th of September. This as a fundraiser to help raise money to make improvements to the school grounds with ideas being more shade and playground upgrades.

Please note that the original date for this Disco on the term planner is different. Due to a community event we have decided we would reschedule ours later in the term. See Disco poster below for details and if you need any further information please contact Beth Elliott, Julie Greenfield or Kate Bennie on 86710011.

PRIMARY DISCO

When: Friday the 28th August 2015

R-2: 5.00-6.30pm
3-6: 7.00-9.00pm

Where: RDAS School Hall

Entry: $5.00 per person
Dress: Casual

Food and Drinks available on the night!

Parents are required to collect students at the finishing time.
Students will not be allowed to walk home!
Flipsyde Health Service update...

Flipsyde clinics are available at the school once a fortnight for students aged 12 and above. Clinics run from 9.30am to 5.30pm. Dr Andy Killcross is currently on Long Service Leave so we have two other doctors from Port Augusta visiting to conduct these clinics this term. They are Dr Amanda Bethell and Dr Susan Anderson. Clinic dates for Term 3 are August 6th, August 20th, September 3rd and September 17th. If you have questions about this service please feel free to contact Beth Elliott or Kate Bennie on 86710011.
SPECIAL PARENT NIGHT
UNCHARTED WORLD: Understanding Teens Today
MONDAY 10TH AUGUST

An insight into the worlds of our teen boys and girls. Describing what is actually happening. Why do teens engage in risk taking behaviours? and what parents, carers and schools can do to support teens to become the best person they can be. Media and culture place enormous pressure on girls and boys to behave and look a certain way, and as adults we need to be aware of how our teens are feeling and what they are often doing to achieve this unrealistic ideal.

Topics such as bullying, drugs & alcohol, mental health, sexuality & body image, among other issues are discussed to assist parents to understand the pressures their sons and daughters face.
**Woolworths Earn & Learn 2015**

Dear Parents/students,

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school/early learning centre – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths and collect your Earn & Learn stickers at the checkout.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school or at your local Woolworths.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

Kind Regards,
Roxby Downs Area School

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**Bank SA School Promotion**

Bank SA are holding a special promotion for students aged 13 or over. Each student who opens a Complete Freedom Account before the 30th August 2015 will receive $20 in their account, a free ticket to this year's Royal Adelaide Show and a further $20 will be donated toward a fundraising event (yet to be decided) for the school.

This is a great opportunity to open an account and get paid for doing it. Students will be helping the school at the same time.

Bank SA have provided the school with full information packs and these are available from Mr Holden. Alternatively, you can take ID with you to any branch of Bank SA and open the account yourselves.

Bank SA opening times in Roxby Downs are:

**Bank SA - opening times:**

Monday 9:30am – 4:00pm
Tuesday 9:30am – 4:00pm
Wednesday 9:30am – 4:00pm
Thursday 9:30am – 7:00pm
Friday 9:30am – 5:00pm
Keep your kids smiling

Dental care is FREE for most school children and ALL preschool children at the School Dental Service.

All children aged 0-17 are welcome.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au or call us now on 8222 8222.