Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

Sister Pat’s Quote of the week.
TV Stations are surely doing their part in the ecological circle by the way they recycle programs.

BHP Billiton Training Team with WHS Students
Certificate 3 in Work Health and Safety is a course offered at our school to students in Year 12 who apply and meet eligibility requirements. This course is delivered by Ann O’Sullivan under a Memorandum of Understanding with CEG. This year our students have had the opportunity to work with members of the BHP Billiton Training Team. This has involved them coming into the class and presenting information with students and then getting the students to use this in a practical way. They have then supported the students by organising a site visit where students can see how this is used daily on worksites.

This week we were able to travel out to the Olympic Dam Airport and be part of their ‘Lean Board’ (toolbox talk, shift start, risk assessment) have a site tour and receive presentations from members of BOOM and CAPE.

This was a really valuable contribution to the work the students are doing and our thanks go to:

Mick Allen, Vern Kruger, Kellie Falkinder, Chad Menzies, Brendan Cook, Maree Jackson, Malcolm Bowes, Peter Franklin and Mick Millard.
RDAS External Review by DECD:

On Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September, DECD carried out a whole site review of Roxby Downs Area School. Three review officers spent two days interviewing staff and leaders, visiting class rooms and meeting with parents and students, to get an understanding of how effectively our site is functioning and to assess how well we are meeting the educational needs of our students. Whole school reviews are carried out within all DECD sites across the state every four years.

These types of processes are highly valued as they provide schools with valuable feedback in terms of the way they operate on a daily basis, and on the programmes they have in place to support students. This particular team have been visiting and evaluating sites all year and so they were in an ideal position to be able to effectively compare the effectiveness of our school in relation to the many other schools they have visited over the past 9 months.

The review officers will prepare a written report on their visit during the next 6-8 weeks. The report will provide us with key recommendations, to assist us with all our future planning for 2016 and beyond. The report is a public document and so it will be posted on the DECD website as well as being made available to staff and parents via our own website.

Prior to leaving, the head of the review team, Tony Sullivan, met with me on the Wednesday morning to outline the key findings from the review. This feedback was very positive and affirming. Some of the comments passed on as part of this meeting include:

- They were amazed at the energy levels in the school on the basis the review was being done in Week 8 of Term 3.
- They commented on the positive vibe in the school, from the minute they arrived.
- They commented on the significant amount of goodwill that all of the staff displayed. The parents and student made comments to the review team about the extra effort staff go to in supporting students. This is something that was reinforced by leaders.
- We were praised for the changes that have been implemented over the past 20 months, setting a found foundation for the future. The hard work across the site that has gone into these developments was acknowledged by the review team.
- The quality of the planning and programing of teachers was of the highest level. The structures that were in place to support this process were seen as best practise.
- There was evidence of staff using data to plan and programme. This was identified as an area that needs to remain a key focus.
- They were highly impressed by the students they met. The students were able to articulate their learning, gave teachers positive commendations and were very positive about the school and the community.
The parents who spoke were very complimentary. Teachers were commended on their commitment. Parents felt valued and were impressed by the efforts the school went to in communicating to parents. They also spoke positively about the new reporting system and the new interview processes in Year 7-12.

The review officers commended the leaders on the improvement plans we have developed, the new intervention processes, the structures for site improvement, performance development, the focus of information technology, the data management processes and the general structures we have in place (eg. meeting structures).

The three staff conversations were received very positively. Staff were able to articulate effectively how they supported all learners and how they planned and programmed with Australia Curriculum.

Over the course of the 3 days, specific comments were made by the staff, students and parents being interviewed. The team collected some of these comments as quotes and shared them with me. These comments were made by a range of individuals over the two days:

Leader: “The staff are open to learning.” re: Teaching Practice.
Student: “The Teacher pulls you aside to talk to you about how you can improve.”
Student: “Our role as student leaders is to set examples for others.”
Student: “The teachers set a really good example.” re: Modelling.
Student: “Some classes get more homework than others.” re: Homework.
Student: “Repeating information wastes a lot of time.” re: Instruction.
Teacher: “Composite classes really stretch your planning.”
Teacher: “We should focus on 5 key teaching strategies and go deeper with these.” re: Teaching Practice.
Parent: “Steve is highly involved in classes.”
Parent: “Steve is a community minded person.”
Parent: “Teachers have a very positive approach.”
Parent: “If you have got a good leader you get better results.” re: leadership
Parent: “We have got some fantastic teachers.”
Parent: “Teachers aren’t doing it because it’s a job.”
Parent: “I wished I had moved here years ago.”
Parent: “If you want to get involved it is a great place to be.”
Parent: “Our experience of the school has been good.”
Parent: “I liked the way they did the interviews this year.” re: reporting.
Parent: “I find the teachers approachable.”
Parent: “The learning data is not necessarily shared with parents.” re: Learning data.
Parent: “The BHPB issue has filtered through to the kids.”
Parent: “The subject choices at Year 12 have improved a lot.
Parent: “The thing that concerns me most is student writing skills.”
Parent: “There is a good point of difference from one section of the school to another.”
Parent: “Creativity is an important concept to develop with learning.”
Teacher: “I have been encouraged to lead rather than manage.”
Leaders: “We have an environment for growth.”
Student: “Teachers push as if they think that we have not got to where we should be.”
Student: “They make time to see you and try to work out what’s needed.”
Student: “We ask our teachers how we are going and what to do to improve.
Teacher: There has been a big focus on the lower end and now we are beginning to stretch more at the top end.”
Teacher: “We have to develop consistent approaches.” re: Teaching.
Parent: “The Principal is much more visible, community – minded and very open with Governing Council.”
Teacher: “We need to consolidate and celebrate more.”
Interviews
Optional interviews have been held this week. If you have not met with your child’s class teacher but wish to do so please make a time with them. Alternatively, if your child’s class teacher is requesting an interview with you, please work in partnership and attend a meeting. Your child is at the centre of all we do and the partnerships we have with you as parents are vital to contributing to their success at school.

Primary Disco
Thank you to all the families that supported the Student Voice Disco. It was well attended and a great time was had by all!

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
In 2016 we will be rolling our BYOD in the middle primary section of our school. Keep an eye out, we will be holding parent information sessions early in Term 4. Also, please see the article in this newsletter from the ICT Coordinator.

Transition and Enrolment for Reception Students starting
If you have a child commencing school in Reception in 2016, please ensure your enrolment forms are returned to school by the end of this week. We are busily planning for the rolling visits that commence in Week 2, Term 4.

Classes for 2016
Leadership are due to commence forward planning for 2016 classes. If you have specific requests or concerns regarding your child’s class placement these must be received in writing no later than Monday 12th October. You can email them directly to rebecca.eli16@schools.sa.edu.au or place in a sealed envelope, addressed to Rebecca Eli and deliver to the front office. Requests made after the completion of this process may not be considered.

Thank you to our R-6 student leaders- site review, disco, transition
This is a special mention to our Year 6 leaders, who over the course of this term, have excelled in their roles. They have been given significant responsibility in regards to leading parent transition tours, planning and running the SV disco alongside their SV team and communicating with the External Review team last week. On all occasions, our leaders have been outstanding. Well done.

R-6 Leadership Changes
There will be some staffing changes to R-6 leadership in 2016. The Upper Primary Coordinator position is currently advertised. The panel process will commence over the coming weeks.

I would also like to announce that I will not be applying for the R-6 Assistant Principal position for 2016 and beyond. I have enjoyed leading the R-6 cohort this year and working closely with families in a different capacity, however, my true passion lies in the classroom. I am looking forward to returning to a primary class in 2016 and possibly furthering my expertise through studying a Masters in Education.

Warm wishes,

Bec Eli
Information Technology Update.

RDAS is steadily moving towards a more sustainable computing environment. With approximately a third of students in 7-12 using their own device for school purposes. The two computer rooms in G Block will be phased out at the end of 2015. These computers are seven years old and are at the end of their life. This will mean that in the senior school students will only have access to school computers in speciality subjects this include Computer Aided Design, Photography, Media Studies and Desktop Publishing. Students are strongly encouraged to have a device to use in 2016.

In the Year 3/4 classes for 2016 we will see the introduction of an iPad program starting term two. This is currently planned for only years 3/4 in 2016 and then again the Year 3/4 classes the following year and so on gradually working through the year levels.

A parent information night for students who are currently in Year 2 and 3 will be held in Week 2, Term 4, Thursday 22nd of October. More information about the program will be delivered then. In the meantime parents are strongly encouraged to fill out the survey on the school website http://www.rdas.sa.edu.au/ and on the school Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/roxbydownsareaschool Please post questions you may have and the school will do it’s best to answer them.

Insurance for this device will need to be covered by the parents. This is the same as any device your child brings to school, music player, mobile phone etc. It will be the parent’s / guardian’s responsibility to make sure that they have this covered. Accidental damage is an option that can be purchased through the portal. Storage of the devices at school depends on a number of factors and will depend on information received from parents to the school.

Apps for the device will purchased by the parents and a list of required apps will be produced by the class teacher. Many of these apps will be free.

For Year 6 parents and those in 7-11, a parent information night will be held after the Year 2 session. Information will cover the use of the school portal and the direction the school is heading regarding Information Technology.

The school will be able to direct our funds into the existing infrastructure and new resources. Ideas being generated so far include eBook text books for the library, the ability for students to access a richer range of digital media, coding classes and a maker space for students to create and explore various digital technologies.
Early this year Roxby Downs Area School counselors attended cyber safety session by Susan Mclean and were very impressed with her ability to define the issues of Cyber safety and give practical advice on how we can meet the challenge of keeping our children safe.

The Carly Ryan Foundation also spoke in this years wellbeing week and a number of parents attended her sessions and gained valuable insight and information.

Subsequently the Inspire and Odyssey projects were offered to secondary students and again in those workshops and the parent session that followed, the issue of cyber safety arose.

Consequently we have been able to secure the services of Susan Maclean to undertake workshops for primary and secondary students, Educators and parents to build on this work. These sessions are offered to all four schools in the area and all educators and parents.

If you haven’t been involved yet this is your chance. Or if you have been thinking about ideas already raised, here is a chance to listen to talk to a recognised expert in the area. We are offering parents the opportunity to sit in on the students sessions so you are able to see the learning your child is undertaking and follow up with questions at the parent session. Details of the sessions follow.

### Student Sessions

**Monday 21st September**  
Town Auditorium  
Years 3 to 4  9.00 to 11.00  
Years 7 to 9  11.30 to 1.00

**Tuesday 22nd September**  
Years 5 to 6  9.00 to 11.00  
Years 10 to 12  11.30 to 1.00

Parents are welcome to attend this learning and observe. (Not suitable for young children)

### Adult Sessions

**Monday 21st September**  
RDAS Staff Room  
Educators Session  3.30 To 5.00pm

**Tuesday 22nd September**  
RDAS staff room  
Parents Session  7.00 to 8.30pm

Please enter through the school front entrance
Miss Boothey and Mrs Schipper's Year 1/2 class have been working out ways to make the school more environmentally friendly.

After winning a grant for $1000, the students decided to use the money to purchase eco bins for around the school. The Year 1/2s are on a roster to put out yellow eco bins around the school to collect bottles, cans and juice containers. They are using the money to purchase resources to make a bottle top mural which will be displayed in the school yard. To stop plastic bottle tops from going to landfill, the class is reusing them for a rainbow mural.

Any donations of coloured plastic bottle tops would be greatly appreciated.

**ECO BINS**

**RDJBA Registrations**

are now open for 5 year olds and up. Need to be paid online by 2nd October. Registrations are on the RDJBA Facebook page and follow the link or go on Sporting Pulse and find Roxby Downs Junior Bball Association and follow that link.

Anyone interested in coaching see Mrs Zepchner Linda Evans or Ange Lamb.

Thanks

Roxby Downs Junior Basketball Association Committee
**REMINDER NOTE:**
It’s time to return any Earn & Learn stickers or Sticker sheets to Roxby Downs Area School if you have not already done so.

Last day to return these is next **Thursday 24th September**.

Thank you to all who have participated in this program.

We will let you know next term what our tally totalled and what we should be able to purchase for our students.
Footy Colour Friday

Friday the 28th August Student Voice ran Footy Colours Friday to help raise money for the Fight Cancer Foundation which raises money for children who are going through cancer. Each year, Fight Cancer Foundation asks all Australians to unite and wear their favourite football team’s colours and help support the fight against cancer. For the past 25 years Fight Cancer Foundation has supported cancer patients and their families and through Footy Colours Day have been able to help thousands of young Aussies. Football unites communities – whether you follow AFL, NRL, Soccer, Rugby Union or any other sport – unite, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with your fellow Aussies and support young Aussies living with cancer.

Student Voice ran soccer, hand ball and longest kick activities on the oval at lunch time for staff and students to participate in. There was a great turn out of students having a go at these activities. Students and staff participated in the day by donning their favorite team colours, guernsey’s and uniforms and donated to this great cause. We thank all students and their families for helping make this day a success and for donating to the cause, total money raised from this day was $331.05.

Student Voice R-6 Disco

On Friday the 11th September Student Voice held a Disco for the primary students from R-2 and 3-6. The night was a huge success with approximately 120 students attending the evening. The money raised from the night is going towards upgrading the schools bike rack area. A big thank you for DJ Walsh for donating his DJing services for the night! Kids had a great time & this is what they thought:

I had fun playing the limbo- Seth
I had lots of fun dancing to the music – Holly
I like all of it. I had lots of fun! – Jack
I played with Jack and we played chasey. I got to buy some chips and a drink Chace
My favourite part of the disco was dancing to “watch me whip now watch me nae nae”. Donell
The disco was really fun they had colourful lights and sumo suits. We also had a dance of between boys and girls in the 3-6 Disco it was really fun! Milly
On Thursday 10th September Roxby Downs Area School Youth Health Advisory Group (YHAG) helped raise awareness around suicide prevention in Australia. This year, R U OK? Day and World Suicide Prevention Day fell on the same date, drawing attention to Australia’s role in addressing this global public health issue. Campaign Director Rebecca Lewis states every 40 seconds someone dies by suicide[1], and we should all be doing as much as possible to prevent feelings of isolation and loneliness occurring in every community. This was a statistic which our YHAG group felt was too high and they felt the need to share the R U OK? Message to the school community in the hope to raise awareness that these simple words to a mate or someone you may come across could actually change their life for the better. The YHAG students put displays up around the school and teachers shared information around suicide prevention with their students. The group baked an R U OK? cake which we shared at recess for all students to enjoy.

Facts

- More than 2,500 Australians suicide each year. That’s about 7 people every day.
- 65,000 people attempt suicide each year in Australia
- Suicide is the biggest killer of Australians under 44 years
- Men account for around 75 per cent of all suicide deaths in Australia

(source: https://www.ruok.org.au)
Year 11 Photography Students work with local Photographer Hayley Scrivens

Hayley Scrivens from Mook Photography (0459 824 026), working with Michael Scarr. The Year 11 Photography class were recently involved in an excursion where they worked with local Photographer Hayley Scrivens, who has extensive experience within the industry. As Haley specialises in Portrait Photography, students were fortunate in being able to participate in a newborn portraiture session. Hayley has a large range of props for her photography shoots and students were able to use these to set up their photos. Students learnt a range of Photography techniques and tricks used within the industry and were thoroughly impressed with the learning experience. This resulted in some amazing photographs, like the one below which was set up and taken by Madelyne Bourn and Victoria Tukwitogg-Fereti.
Join the Green Army!

Is this for you?
Are you aged between 17 and 24, an Australian citizen or permanent resident and would like to be a part of a team that will make a REAL difference to the environment in your local community?

Would you like to be paid an allowance for a 30 hour week in a 22 week project while gaining skills, training and experience that can help you enter the workforce, improve your career opportunities or further your education and training?

Then the GREEN ARMY is for you.

The Green Army is an Australian Government initiative open to young people including Indigenous Australians, school leavers, gap year students, graduates and job seekers who are looking to develop skills, undertake training and gain experience in the delivery of conservation projects. Through this, participants will enhance opportunities for careers and further training in conservation.

Roxby Downs Green Army Project
Arid Nature Corridor - Species Conservation in South Australia's Arid Zone

Focusing on the Arid Recovery Reserve which is considered to be one of the most important areas for the nationally listed Plains Mouse, Burrowing Bettong, Greater Bilby and Western Barred Bandicoot. Assist with the enhancement of habitat around the Reserve to create corridors and allow natural dispersal of native mammals and management of re-introduced native species. This Green Army project based near Roxby Downs in the north of South Australia. Basic accommodation is available at no cost for participants who need to relocate.

Contact the Adelaide CVA Office for details of Green Army information session times and venues
Please phone 08 8212 0777 or email adelaide@cva.org.au

To Apply
Complete the application form on www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/green-army

More Information
Phone: 08 8212 0777

Connecting people with our environment