Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

Sister Pat’s Quote of the Week:
Easter tells us that life is to be interpreted not simply in terms of things but in terms of ideals. (C.M.Crowe)

YEAR 8 AQUATICS CAMP

**Year Eights go to the Ocean.** Amelia Johnson

On Tuesday the eleventh of March, two classes of Year Eight students and teachers were off and ready to go to Port Vincent to start their four day aquatics camp.

When the students got to Port Vincent they got straight into very challenging activities, such as kayaking, windsurfing, knee boarding and sailing. They said that the activities were rather terrifying, but fun at the same time.

The Year Eights then made their way to an amazing surf beach at Berry Bay, where the students learnt to surf and body board throughout the day.

It was agreed overall by the students and teachers, even instructors that it was the best camp they have ever had.

**Port Vincent Camp 2014. Deklen Gates**

On the 11th of March most of the Year 8 student from Roxby Downs Area School left and went to camp at Port Vincent.

They went sailing, knee boarding, wind sailing and kayaking at Port Vincent then on Wednesday went to Berry Bay. They went surfing and wake boarding, most people enjoyed surfing more than wake boarding. It was a great camp but “I need to keep my mouth shut so I don’t drink salt water” said Connor. Justin said “The weather was perfect to go surfing.” The camp was a part of our P.E grade. The waves were massive at Berry Bay, a lot of people got headaches because their boards keep hitting them.

“The camp was the best I’ve been on” said Daniel. All the Year 8’s said that they had lots of fun and a great experience on the camp.
Principal’s Report.

Dealing with conflict: The Roxby Downs School Community is no different to any other school community, from time to time issues will arise, misunderstandings will occur and mistakes will be made. Over the past few weeks, face book and Roxby Rave has been used by some members of our school community to air grievances in a very public way. This is highly inappropriate, helps no-one and does significant damage to the morale of those individuals involved. On these occasions, there has been some ‘voices of reason’ within the message trail, indicating that the comments are unwarranted, unnecessary and unhelpful. I thank these parents for their willingness to stand up and be counted, as this is one proactive way we can stop this type of abuse of people’s rights. Concerning, however; is the number of individuals who ‘like’ these inappropriate comments and add their voice to the harassment. Parents who choose to contribute to the harassment in this type of way are a significant part of the problem.

The school has a very clear grievance process. If an issue or concern arises with your child, it is important that you communicate those concerns with the staff member directly involved, in most cases your child’s home group teacher. This is a respectful way to deal with a grievance and the most effective way to clear up misunderstandings.

Going forward, I trust that we have seen the last of parents dealing with grievances in this type of way. In the most recent ‘incident’, I made contact with the local police, who saved and then passed on a copy of the list of comments posted, enabling me to speak with the parent involved. In future, I’m not prepared to deal with issues involving cyber bullying of members our school staff, but will ask that they are dealt with by the police. The conversations will be ‘saved’, copied and forwarded to the police, as part of an official complaint. It is important that all parents follow the grievance procedures that are in place and respecting the rights of all individuals.

Update on attendance: Our attendance figures this term have been consistently higher than at the same time in 2013, which is positive. It’s also pleasing to see the number of unexplained absences significantly down on 2013. Please remember to contact the school if your child is away. This will save your child’s home group teacher an enormous amount of time and energy.

Absence data for 2104: 2013 Average attendance: 89.3%  DECED Improvement Target: 93%

2014: Wk 1: 92.9% 2: 93.1%  3: 90.2%  4: 87.6%  5: 89.3%  6: 92.0%  7: 92.2%  8: 89.1%  9: 89.1%  Average to date in 2014 (to the end of week 9): 90.76 %

Staffing Update:

- Emma Turner commences maternity leave from the end of this term, so we wish her all the best as she prepares for the safe arrival of her baby. Emma’s class will be taken by Megan Arbon and Julie Traeger for the remainder of the year.
- Special congratulations to Sally Cormack, who has been appointed as Acting Principal for Andamooka Primary School for the remainder of the year. Sally’s role as Junior School Coordinator will be filled next term. Her teaching role has been won by Ms Georgia Allen, who is really excited about moving to Roxby Downs for the remainder of the year.
- Belinda Ramsey has recently commenced a new role within the school as a Numeracy Coach and so from the beginning of next term, her role in the library will be covered by a new teacher, Annette Blackett.
- Beverly Zepchner will be on leave during term 2 and it is our pleasure to welcome back Natasha Pearce to RDAS, to take over Bev’s class in term 2.
- The Deputy Principal Position for 2015 is currently being advertised across South Australia. The panel for this position will be run in early term 2, with the vacancy finalised near the middle of next term.

In conclusion: Term 1 is always very hectic, with a number of extra curriculum activities like swimming and athletics adding to the normal daily routine, and so I’m sure staff and students are all looking forward to the holiday break. The majority of Year R-6 interviews were conducted in week 10, if you’ve yet to have your parent / teacher interview, please contact the school a.s.a.p. Written reports for Yr 7-12 students go out the last Friday of the term, with follow-up interviews to be held on Tuesday 6th May.

I’d like to close by wishing all families a safe and relaxing holiday break!

Kind Regards, Steve Bennett
2014

Yr 3-6 Swimming Age Champions

7/8 Yr Age Champion – Male – Bailey Anderson
7/8 Yr Age Champion – Female – Annabelle Kruger

9 Yr Age Champion – Male – Oliver Watherston
9 Yr Age Champion – Female – Alyssa Parker

10 Yr Age Champion – Male – Angus Hewitt
10 Yr Age Champion – Female – Crystal Marshall

11/12 Yr Age Champions – Male – Zane Annand & Edward Hattingh (Joint Winners)
11/12 Yr Age Champions – Female - Bianca Caden & Millicent Cordy (Joint Winners)

7-12 Swimming Age Champions

U13 Age Champion – Male - Luke Young
U13 Age Champion – Female - Millie Young

U14 Age Champion – Male - Brodie Caden
U14 Age Champion – Female - Emily O’Sullivan

U15 Age Champion – Male - Sax Brougham
U15 Age Champion – Female - Millie Clarke

U21 Age Champion – Male - Ryan Heckenberg
U21 Age Champion – Female - D’Arcy Gotch

2014 Athletic Age Champions

U13 Age Champion – Male - Harrison Mulady
U13 Age Champion – Female - Tasma French

U14 Age Champion – Male - Malachy Lynch
U14 Age Champion – Female - Ashleigh Isakka

U15 Age Champion – Male - Rudayne Hadfield
U15 Age Champion – Female - Millie Clarke

U16 Age Champion – Male - Isaiah Fielding
U16 Age Champion – Male - Hamish Jacka

U16 Age Champion – Female - Maddison Cordy
U16 Age Champion – Female - Demi-Jo Roads

U21 Age Champion – Male - Ryan Heckenberg
U21 Age Champion – Female - Zoey Male
TERM 1 WRAP UP!!

Well, we’re nearly at the end of an incredibly busy Term 1 and I’m happy to say that it has been productive and a lot of fun. There are two Year 5/6 classes at RDAS this year. I have 30 energetic, bright and wonderful students in my class this year and there has not been a dull moment. Perky Mrs Prosser has another 29 right next door and we frequently combine to share the expertise and ideas that we have as teachers.

We have written some articles about some of our learning we have participated in throughout the term, it’s only an overview but we think you’ll agree that we have enjoyed every moment thoroughly.

Julie Greenfield
3-6 Coordinator and Year 5/6 Classroom teacher

STUPENDOUS SWIMMING by Crystal Marshall

The day dawned bright and warm as classes gathered to prepare for our 2014 3-6 Swimming Carnival. We began walking to the Leisure Centre and I was real nervous about the upcoming races until……
“Crystal, where is your hat? You cannot go without your hat” snapped the lovely Mrs Greeny.
“Ummmm. I’m not sure” I replied.
“Then go and get one” Mrs Greeny responded.
I eventually found one in the classroom. Whew. We eventually arrived at the pool.

We came together as teams under the big, bright tents. Suddenly it was later in the morning and it was time for my races! First up I had the 25m freestyle. When it was my turn to race, I stood on the blacks. It was nerve-wracking as we all stood there. Ready, she held up the gun and……… and then I fell into the pool!!! My head popped up and I took a look around, nobody else was off the block, I had broken! I was totally embarrassed. I got back on the block though and thought to myself, ‘Crystal, don’t jump until the gun goes off this time’. The gun shot and I swam the whole pool and actually won!

The next race for my age group was the backstroke and I did NOT participate. The last time I swam that race I got water up my nose and I hit my head at the end so hard that it hurt. But I did do the breast stroke and I was like on fire. No offense to anyone but; I thrashed the competition. What a day….

SOLAR SCIENCE by Tom Cormack

One thing that I have enjoyed in this amazing term was creating our fantastic solar ovens. We made them during our Science lessons that focussed on light energy. We started this activity during the month of February.

I think the best part about the solar ovens was getting to make them. It was very interesting to learn how they would work and see how we would build them to make them work effectively. There were a lot of different materials that we needed to build them but we had the most important component: HOT WEATHER!!!

We needed to work with a partner and I chose my best friend Andrej Vukotic (that’s why I chose him). Mrs Prosser’s class also made solar ovens and sometimes we would work together with them. To test our solar ovens out on a hot day, we got to make 2 types of cookies; chocolate chip and m & m, and they smelt good. After the experiment we got to eat them and they were absolutely fantastic!

I really enjoyed the experiment and I really hope to do other awesome experiments like this one throughout the whole year.

MILO CRICKET by Zane Annand

In Term 1, Week 9, the Milo Cricket Clinic came up to Roxby Downs Area School. They were holding cricket sessions that went for the whole day with four cricket games that went for 50 minutes each.

The cricket clinic traveled up from Port Lincoln and Adelaide. We invited St Barbs to join us in the cricket clinic. All up there were twelve teams with 8 people in each one. We played 3 games before lunch and 1 after lunch. The names of the twelve teams were Red Backs, Fire, Roar, Scorpions, Meteorites, Magic, Bulls, Fury, Warriors, St Barbs 1, St Barbs 2 and St Barbs 3. We all played our best and we had loads of fun. In the end St Barbs 3 won. They had an astonishing score of over 200 points. St Barbs 3 each got a certificate as well as a packet of Milo and a set of Red Backs cards.
In Week 9 of this term our 4 Year 6 Leaders headed to Adelaide for the National Halogen Young Leaders Conference. The conference was held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and 1200 students and staff from all over Adelaide and the state attended. There were five guest speakers who all gave inspirational speeches with loads of advice on becoming great leaders. The speakers were:

1. Mike Martin - executive director of Halogen Foundation
2. Anneka Deaton – female squadron leader in the air force
4. Andy Griffith – Author of the “Just” series and “The Day My Butt Went Psycho”.
5. Daniel Flynn – the co-founder of thankyou:water.

This camp was awesome I liked spending time with my friends. Thanks to Mrs Elliott for taking us down to Adelaide. Kade Flavel

The conference was a great experience for all of us. I hope that I can put into practice some of the stuff we learnt. Thanks to Mrs Elliott for taking us kids to Adelaide, it was great! Jayden Jones

I liked all of the guest speakers and what they said to help us be good leaders – “nothing great, big or long lasting ever starts out that way!’ Shae-Lee Griggs

I liked the guest speakers, in particular Daniel Flynn because he showed us that no matter how much money or how old you are you can succeed if you are determined and work really hard. Riley Evans

Beginner Guitar & Singing Lessons in Roxby!

Has your child always wanted to learn how to play the guitar? Maybe he/she is a little songbird that loves to sing all the time?

OR

Perhaps YOU would like professional lessons yourself?

Call JOY on 0427694343 to secure a place. Lessons start SOON!
Mick’s message:

Hi everyone

As I have been looking for different quotes to put in the newsletter I came across some quotes on success that I think are worth looking at.

*I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.* –Michael Jordan

*You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.* –Wayne Gretzky

Success is not just about achieving great things in life, it’s being willing to take a shot during the difficult times. It’s when you miss getting up and giving it another shot. You don’t know what you can achieve until you give it a shot. Don’t allow past failures or disappointments stop you from having another shot, who knows what that next shot may bring!

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

SCHOOL LIFE IN THE OLDEN DAYS

Students from Special Class have been learning in History about how ‘daily life’ has changed with the passing of time. They have discussed aspects of differences and similarities relating to these changes, after viewing videos and websites to gain information about Past Times. A focus on school life where ‘Olden Times’ games of Hopscotch, Marbles, 5 stones (Knuckles), Jack Straws (Pick up Sticks), Hoop Rolling and Blind Man’s Buff were played, along with dressing up in clothes students wore back then, were activities enjoyed by the students.