Our School Vision: Empowering all to reach their potential.

Sister Pat’s Quote of the week
May you and your family be filled with peace and happiness at Christmas and each day in 2015.

Christmas Concert Extravaganza
This year’s 3-6 Concert was awesome! There were amazing performances by the School Choir, Mrs Wilson’s Year 3 class, Mrs Gubbin’s Year 3-4 class, Mrs Jordan’s Year 4 class, Mrs Darling’s Year 4-5 class, Mrs Prosser 5-6 class and Mrs Greenfields and Mrs Montie’s 5-6 class……….. All of them were fantastic! The concert bounced off with the School Choir singing “Happy” which was very good from our amazing singers.

The performance that attracted the most cheers (besides ours!!) was Mrs Prosser’s dance battle between the boys and the girls. The boys danced to “Shell Shocked” followed by the girls dancing to “Shake It Off” - it was an excellent performance! After that the Year 5 and 6’s from both classes had a dance battle; the Year 5’s did “That Power” and the Year 6’s did “Freaks”…….. I thought the Year 5’s won because they did a really good job!!

The event concluded with an awesome and funny performance by the Teachers who rocked around a Christmas tree which happened to be Mr White and he rocked out with his shiny saxophone!

Good job everyone!!  
By Tom Cormack .5/6JG
Class Lists for 2015: Class lists and class teacher allocations will be completed in the next week allowing us to release some of this information to parents this term.

- Year R-6 class lists will be displayed in the Administration windows on the Thursday afternoon of Week 8, Thursday 4th December.
- Year 7-12 Home Group lists will be displayed in the Administration windows in the week beginning Monday 19th January.

The Year in review: In 2014, our school has had a clear focus on the future, putting in place the structures and conditions that will enable our school to reach its full potential as an educational facility. Our vision is that our school will be a high quality facility that the students and the community will be proud of, and students will see this as the natural place for students to complete their secondary education.

Attracting high performing teachers for 2015 and developing a stable leadership base for the future has been a key priority in 2014. I am excited to report that we have been fortunate in attracting 5 quality teachers for 2015, building on what is already a highly professional and dedicated workforce. All systems that employ 70+ individuals will have their challenges and so a key priority moving forward is to ‘raise the bar’, to build high expectations of every individual in our school. Leadership stability will assist us greatly as we move forward. 9 of our 11 permanent leadership positions were re-advertised this year and so over the next 3 years, the leadership of our site will remain stable.

Information technology is a critical ingredient in building a high performing school and adequately preparing students for the future. We identified the shortfalls, both in terms of our IT infrastructure and staff and student access to technology. In 2014, we have invested financially in the future by fully upgrading our site infrastructure and by equipping all class rooms with the latest in IWB technology. The ongoing support of parents in our BYOD strategy will mean that from the beginning of 2015, we will have IT resources in the hands of a significant percentage of our students. Our T&D initiatives in 2015 will be largely based around building site capacity in teaching and learning using ICT.

Literacy and Numeracy continue to be our key site priorities. We have been in a fortunate position throughout 2014 to have both a literacy and numeracy coach based at the school, to lead the improvements in teaching effectiveness in these two important areas. Significant work has been done through programmes like Quick Smart maths and reading intervention to support those students in Year R-10 who are below national benchmarks in these 2 areas. In future years, significant resources will continue to be channelled to supporting our intervention programmes.

Catering for the needs of students with high intellectual potential is a major focus of our Computer Aided Design (CAD) programme, which has gone from strength to strength in 2014. Students from Yr 3-12 have been involved in using the CAD programme, the 3D printers and our newly acquired laser printer. In 2014 we won the State Award for Innovation, for our CAD and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) programmes at the Annual Area School Conference in August. Our younger students have affectionately named the Design and Technology Suite as the ‘making room’.

Well-being, was our 3rd and final site priority for 2014, and will continue to be an important priority in the future. The Well-being week that was conducted early in Term 2 was a major highlight, the FliipSyde programme continues to have significant benefits for our students. The data analysis around both attendance and bullying will be used strategically to build on the improvements made in these areas. We are also excited about implementing a new pastoral care programme for Year 7-12 students from the beginning of Term 1, 2015.

Driven by student feedback, the Governing Council embarked on a review of our school uniform in 2014. We surveyed the whole school community, receiving strong endorsement for a uniform change, which will be phased in during 2015. This is a key strategy in lifting the profile of the school in the community, and building a sense of pride within the student cohort.
Facilities upgrades during 2014 included: replacement of perma-pine fencing with new galvanised fencing, additional outdoor seating, planning for a new storage facility for grounds/furniture, upgrading of the Design and Technology Suite (CAD room), painting of H Block toilets, renovation of all I-Block teaching rooms, major upgrade of site air conditioning in the Library, Science Laboratories and Main Administration (to be completed in the Christmas holidays) and the major upgrade of our Technical Studies area, as part of the Federal Governments Trade Training Centre Initiative. The newly formed Desert Trade Training Centre, officially opened in September, has the potential to transform the range of opportunities available for our Senior Secondary students.

2014 has certainly lived up to its promise as a particularly busy year in the life of our school. We finished the year by saying farewell to 5 long term staff who have each made a large impact at RDAS over many years; Tony White, Sally Cormack, Melanie Smith, Chris Jones and Bec Gardner. They are all going to be missed greatly and we wish them well as they move into new roles for 2015, both Tony and Sally as Principals of Woomera Area School and Point Neil Primary School respectively. We are also sad to say farewell to a number of staff who have held contract positions at our site in 2014 and who have each made an important contribution; Jasper Bird, Karina Darling, Georgie Allen, Annette Blackett, Megan Arbon, Matthew Greenrod, Natasha Mason. We wish them well for the future.

Kind Regards,
Steve Bennett

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Mick’s message:
Hi everyone.

The end of the year is fast approaching with only a few weeks to go. I hope you have been enjoying the journey.

‘The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.’ Joseph Campbell

Be who you are in life, don’t try to be anyone else because being who you are is a privilege, both for yourself and others around you. Don’t try to be someone you are not, be who you were created to be and if you are not sure who that is, enjoy the journey in becoming that person. Make decisions and live with no regrets.

‘Be bold and courageous. When you look back on your life, you’ll regret the things you didn’t do more than the ones you did.’ H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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 attendance, does it really matter???

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important: we all want our children to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school on time each and every day, ‘every moment counts’. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of life. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement.

Getting in early: Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do? The main reasons for absence are:

- Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference. It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

- “Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – ‘every moment counts’

- Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together. If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:
  
  - Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
  - Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

How to communicate: At Roxby Downs Area School we have strategies in place to support you in communicating with the school in regards to attendance. Each day at 11am, 12pm and 1pm (if you are on the phone at 11am it will automatically send you another at the next time for a total of three attempts for the day) an SMS is sent letting you know your child/ren aren’t at school and that we require reason for this. When you receive an SMS for your child we ask that you reply to the SMS with a quick text explaining where they are e.g. sick, away for family etc. The number for attendance at RDAS is 0427016388 – you can send a message to this number at any time to give us details about your child/ren’s absence. Alternatively you can let your child’s teacher know via email, diary/contact book note or ring the front office on 86710011. It is a legal requirement that students do attend school and all absences need to have reason marked in on daily roll books – if reasons aren’t given teachers legally need to follow this up with you as the parent/carer. If you have any questions about this process please feel free to contact the school for further details.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Missing one day a week of school from Reception to Year 10 means missing two years and one term of schooling.
- There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement.
- Frequent absences make it difficult for teachers who have to continually re-teach information and skills.
- Being half an hour late to school each day from Reception to Year 10 equals missing one year and one-and-a-half terms of schooling.
- Patterns of attendance/absence are set up in the early years of schooling.
- Being absent five days a term from reception to Year 10 adds up to more than one year of missed schooling.
- Students who are frequently absent from school are over-represented in the juvenile justice system.
- Girls are absent more often than boys.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive relationships with their peers.
- Students who are frequently absent from school are more likely to end up homeless.
- Indigenous students are absent twice as much as non-indigenous students.
- Girls who are frequently absent from school are over-represented in the statistics for teenage pregnancies.
- Research shows that students who are often absent from school are likely to earn less than their peers as adults.

(Taken from DECD Attendance improvement package www.decd.sa.gov.au)

If you or your child are having difficulties getting to school please contact us to work out strategies to help support you and your children, we are here to help.

Thanks,
Beth Elliott
R-12 Student Counsellor Coordinator.
Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Our **Year 7-12** Presentation Night will be held on **Tuesday 25th November** starting at 7.00pm in the School Hall. Year 7-10 students will need to be at their classroom at **6.30pm** to meet their teacher before moving across to the School Hall as a class. Year 11-12 students need to go directly to the School Hall by 6.45pm.

**It is an expectation that all students attend. They are required to wear their school uniform.** Parents need to be seated in the School Hall by 6.55pm for a **prompt 7.00pm start.**

**Please note there will be no creche available and alternate arrangements will need to be made for younger siblings as seating will only be available for 7-12 students and their parents.**

At the conclusion of the evening you will be able to pick up your child/ren from the School Hall.

**We hope you will join us in celebrating student achievement for 2014.**

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**PRESENTATION NIGHT RETURN SLIP.**

Please return to your child’s Homegroup teacher by Friday 21st November—**1 slip per child.**

Student Name: ___________________________________________ Class teacher: ___________________________________________

will/will not be attending 7-12 Presentation Night, Tuesday 25th November.

Parent/Guardian name: ______________________________

Signature: ______________________________
YAKARTI YAK

( Aboriginal Education @ Roxby Downs Area School )

What a great year we have had in the Yakarti room. We have had lots of activities and events throughout 2015. Congratulations to all RDAS students for all their achievements this year, you should feel very proud. Congratulations to all our year 12 students on finishing your final year of school, in particular Nissa Gordon and Rodney Weetra. Thank you to all the families who have supported the Yakarti room.

“Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new Year”
December 8th - 19th 2014

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<th>8th Dec</th>
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<th>10th Dec</th>
<th>11th Dec</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kids Meeting</td>
<td>Movies 10.30</td>
<td>Swimming 10.00am</td>
<td>Movies 10.30</td>
<td>Wheels Day 10am</td>
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<td>Moveable trees</td>
<td>Maya the Bee Movie</td>
<td>BBQ Lunch</td>
<td>Alexander the Terrible</td>
<td>Pasta Day</td>
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<td>Putting up the Christmas Tree</td>
<td>Christmas Cards</td>
<td>Snow Bubbles</td>
<td>Pine Cone Craft</td>
<td>Pasta &amp; sauce</td>
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<td>Outside Activities</td>
<td>Tree Decorations</td>
<td>Mini Sandwiches</td>
<td>Fun Play</td>
<td>Pong &amp; Button Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Christmas</td>
<td>Bubbles</td>
<td>Outside Games</td>
<td>Christmas Broodles</td>
<td>Trees &amp; Button Games</td>
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<td>Pasta Bake</td>
<td>Paddle Pop Decorations</td>
<td>Bingo</td>
<td>Jam Drops</td>
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<td>Fruit Balls</td>
<td>Santa Biscuits</td>
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<td>Noodles</td>
<td>Toasties</td>
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<td>Extra Clothes</td>
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What to Bring:
- Recess
- Lunch
- Hat
- Water
- For Swimming:
  - Rashy
  - Shorts
  - Towel
  - Extra Clothes
  - Permission Form

Program subject to change without notice

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International Volunteer Day

Come and enjoy the celebrations

Saturday 29th November 2014
9.30am
The Dunes

Morning Tea provided

RSVP: 20th November 2014
Ann-Marie Arthur on 8671 0010
or email ann-marie.arthur@roxbycouncil.com.au

Make change happen, volunteer!
Hi, My name is Peter Lowl, I’m the new Service Manager with a new team at Northpoint Toyota. Our goal is to lower the TOTAL COST of ownership of your vehicle. So we’d like to offer you a Maintenance Check-up for only $50.

Then we are going to donate the $50 to your kids school!

Your Maintenance Check-up includes

- Spare tyre, jack & tools
- Wiper blades & screen washer fluid
- Brake fluid levels
- Brake fluid condition
- Steering fluid levels
- Steering fluid condition
- Drive belts
- Coolant level
- Antifreeze / corrosion inhibitor condition
- Radiator & hoses
- Engine oil level
- Engine oil condition
- Battery & charging system condition
- Tyre pressure & condition

Northpoint also offer
- Servicing for all makes and models of vehicles, 4x4’s & light trucks
- Free shuttle back to your place of work or home
- Free wash and vacuum
- What you see is what you Pay Guarantee - That’s my promise!

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OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

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