Welcome to the 2015 school year everyone! We’ve had a very busy and exciting start to the year with our Supervisor Induction Week held here at School of the Air last week, with of course plenty of fun things for the students to do too. Thank you to all of you who made the trip here. It was great to catch up with all the familiar faces and very exciting to welcome our new families along to our school community.

I’m also very pleased to welcome our new staff members; Gee Ling Cheong who is teaching years 2, 3 & 4 and Kira Jones in Student Support. Ginny Chambers has returned as Senior Leader and Reception & year 1 teacher. This year we are also lucky enough to have a Japanese teacher based here at School of the Air, and warmly welcome Kyoko Miyamoto to the position. Miss Gee Ling and Miyamoto Sensei greatly enjoyed their first online lessons and, along with Miss Kira, were very pleased to also meet many of you last week. Jessie Eatts is teaching years 5, 6 & 7 and our four itinerant teachers are Jo Byrne, Chelsea Packer, Michael Kerin and Trish Page. It’s lovely to have them all back here and beginning the school year full of enthusiasm and exciting ideas for our students and their learning.

We also have our hard-working and much-appreciated team of SSOs from last year again with us, and welcome back Sue, Lynda, Graham and Louise. Other cheery faces at School of the Air are the e-Mentoring team of Vanessa, Katie, Mandy and Debbie. Since Induction Week, we’ve had some more new families come in to the school and it’s been lovely to meet you in person before you head out into the bush.

Our itinerants have already begun their trips out to stations to support students and supervisors in their own school-rooms, and I hear that the REVISE service has already lined up a couple of visits to lend their support as well. Have a look in this edition of SOTA Speak for more information about REVISE and details on how to contact them.

Term 1 is always full of interest and excitement, including our whole school camp which will be held in Week 9 at Barmera. More information will be sent out over the next several weeks, but in the meantime, I thank you all for a bright and positive start to the 2015 school year and look forward to seeing our students thrive in the incredible learning environment that surrounds them.

Cheers for now,

Polly Smart
Hello everyone,

Welcome back to another very busy school year! It was fantastic to see so many faces at our Induction Week, and we look forward to seeing lots of families again soon at our Term 1 aquatics camp at Barmera in Week 9 (23 – 27 March).

Students participated in a variety of activities throughout Induction Week, including a Splash Day, art and craft activities with Colleen Manning and various activities with the itinerant teachers. This provided a great opportunity for students and teachers alike to establish positive relationships and get to know one another.

Induction Week commenced with a tour of the school grounds for both new and existing families, ensuring that people were all familiar with the layout of the buildings. The Week also included a number of information sessions for families focusing on whole-school information and up-coming events, Centra and Moodle familiarisation and library resources.

The Thursday sessions provided supervisors with a practical approach to the schoolroom, with teaching staff demonstrating daily routines and ways to support with reading, literacy and numeracy tasks. Class teachers also held individual information sessions with families sharing their expectations for the school year, providing resources and discussing learning across the curriculum for Term 1.

My role as Supervisor Support involves working closely with supervisors and governesses in the schoolrooms, supporting with strategies and ideas to ensure student learning is as productive and positive as possible. The implementation of the Supervisor Support Moodle this year, is to enable supervisors to browse through schoolroom strategies in various areas including behaviour management, classroom organisation, literacy/numeracy support and many more. All feedback is welcome, as the Supervisor Moodle aims to support supervisors as effectively as possible.

This term, a Supervisor Forum will also be held on **Tuesday Week 4 at 3:30 pm on Centra** as a means of receiving feedback about the term to date. I encourage all supervisors to attend, to share their thoughts and experiences.

The **DES (Distance Education Supervisors) group** will also hold their first meeting at **4 pm on Tuesday of Week 3**, to share their schoolroom strategies and experiences to date. Roles of the group will also be finalized, along with performance ideas for students at our Term 1 camp. Please come along to share your ideas!

I look forward to a productive Term 1.
Please contact me if I can support you in any way.

Virginia Chambers
(08) 8642 2077

virginia.chambers@openaccess.edu.au
DES Sharing Session Week 3: Tuesday 10th Feb (4 pm)

What is the event called?  DES Distance Education Supervisors 2015

How do I Join? With your Centra login – please ring Virginia in advance if you cannot log in to the session.

What Time Does It Start? 4:00 pm

How Long Does It Run For? 30 minutes.

Purpose: To share schoolroom strategies, finalise roles of the team, performance ideas for camp.

Supervisor Forum Week 4: Tuesday 17th Feb (3:30 pm)

What is the event called?  Supervisor Forum 2015

How do I Join? With your Centra login – please ring Virginia in advance if you cannot log in to the session.

What Time Does It Start? 3:30 pm

How Long Does It Run For? 30 minutes.

Purpose: To reflect on and share schoolroom strategies, feedback on the term to date.
Congratulations to our big winners!

National Resources SA Arid Lands wish to thank all entrants in the 'What do you love about Outback SA' competition. They had an overwhelming response and some fantastic entries in all age categories. Congratulations go out to all deserving winners.

5 - 8 year olds
1st Prize - 16G iPad Air – William - School of the Air
2nd Prize - $100 Australian Geographic gift card – Dougal - School of the Air
3rd Prize - $50 Australian Geographic gift card - Jock - School of the Air

Runners up - SA Arid Lands promotional pack
Jethro - Home-school
Abraham - Home-school
Flynn - Stirling North Primary
Landon - Marree Aboriginal School
Jackson - Marree Aboriginal School

9 - 12 year olds
1st Prize - 16G iPad Air - Annie - School of the Air
2nd Prize - $100 Australian Geographic gift card - Jessica and Lachlan - School of the Air
3rd Prize - $50 Australian Geographic gift card - Kate - Leigh Creek Area School

Runners up - SA Arid Lands promotional pack
Charlotte - School of the Air
Paige - Andamooka Primary School
Charlotte - Leigh Creek Area School
Thomas - Leigh Creek Area School
Edward - Leigh Creek Area School

13 - 17 year olds
1st Prize - 16G iPad Air – Elisabeth - Home-school
2nd Prize - $100 Australian Geographic gift card - Jeconan - Marree Aboriginal School (533kb pdf)
3rd Prize - $50 Australian Geographic gift card - Olivia - Coober Pedy Area School (394kb pdf)

Runners up - SA Arid Lands promotional pack
Georgia Higgins - Booleroo Centre District School
Hanna Pergoleto - Open Access College Marden
Molly Steven - Coober Pedy Area School
Aamish Jack Richard Warren - Marree Aboriginal School
Maci Dadleh-Nobes - Marree Aboriginal School

Go to the Natural Resources SA website to view image gallery.
WHAT IS REVISE?

REVISE is a band of volunteers, all retired teachers, who make themselves available to assist with teaching students in isolated situations. We are mostly ex Primary Teachers from R – Y7 who love getting out of the city and working with the students to add to their educational experience.

Sometimes a different face with a different approach can make a difference. We are able to release the regular supervisor (parent, governess) from schoolroom duties OR work with the supervisor on tasks OR if there is more than one student, work with one while the regular supervisor works with the other(s). We all have skills and experience, which have been gained over our teaching careers, and are only too willing to pass on any that may be relevant to your particular student(s).

We are all volunteers, we do not receive payment for our work. We do receive a fuel reimbursement, the rate for which reflects petrol costs and is calculated on the distance travelled to each placement. Parents are requested to contribute to this and are made aware of their share beforehand. This cost should never get in the way of a request for a placement though, any hassles can be discussed with the Coordinator.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO PROVIDE?

We (some may come with a husband/wife/partner) would need a private room with a bed, bed linen and towels. All meals are to be provided. Different situations work in a variety of ways, but while breakfast and lunch arrangements may vary, usually the evening meal is eaten with the family. We are all experienced, professional (and not so young©) people. We are usually ready to join in and help with chores, but housework or child-minding outside of school hours are not part of our duties and should not be expected. Some couples are both teachers, but a non-teaching husband/wife/partner may offer to get involved around the station with activities with which they feel comfortable, particularly if they have skills which could be useful.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When a request is received, we look at who is available for the time period required. Please appreciate we are not all available all of the time as we have families/friends/commitments to consider. It is very unusual that no-one is able to respond as we have quite a list of teachers from which to choose. We try to match the available teacher(s) to the year level and assistance requested. We put you in touch with the REVISE teacher who would be coming so you can have a chat. SOTA will be given the dates of your visit and the REVISE teacher should have contacted the class teacher(s) involved in case they have any specific instructions. We all have the appropriate Police Check.

TO FINISH

I have taken over managing REVISE this year from Garry and Jeanette Coombes. I am enjoying the challenge and appreciate the support I am getting from Mary Hook, Polly Smart, Jill Greenfield and Katrina Morris who are the REVISE Management Committee. We received a terrific donation from the Pastoralists’ Ball Committee and are thinking of ways it can be put to good use. We are planning to spend some time at the SOTA camp next March, so please come and say ‘Hi’.

There is more information on the website, but if you prefer a chat, please leave a message on my answering machine if I don’t answer the phone. I will return your call. The number is at the top of this page.

TRISH ELLIN, Coordinator
A Message from your REVISE Committee
Parent Rep – Jill Greenfield

Representatives from REVISE are intending to visit our 2015 school camp, in order to share some of their experience with parents and supervisors.

REVISE are retired teachers who volunteer their time to help isolated families with educating their children.

They would like to know if parents or supervisors have any specific information they would like covered. This could be setting up a classroom, behaviour management, effective teaching strategies or help with specific learning needs.

Please contact Jill with your ideas: coljill@activ8.net.au

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Library News

Welcome to new families and welcome back to others to the library for 2015. It was good to have the opportunity to talk last week at Supervisor Induction and the Library staff all look forward to working with you this year. We have also appreciated the emails and phone calls and requests at assembly to keep you busy with reading and other resources!

Assembly and Big Reads
There will be a Library Assembly and Big Reads again in 2015 starting next Friday 13 February. Students need to log in to the event called ‘Library Assembly and Big Reads’. All students should be enrolled in this sessions but please let us know if you are having difficulties logging in etc.

During this term we will have a review of the event, eg, timing etc so keep an eye out for that but in between if you have comments or suggestions, please email them to us.

Premiers Reading Challenge 2015
More information about the PRC for 2015 will be available soon, but in the meantime, please keep a list of books you have been reading and you can use them for the PRC this year.

If you would like to borrow some resources or need other information please contact us:
- Write on the Borrowing slide at Assembly each morning
- Phone: 1800 882 328 and ask for the Library
- Phone: (08) 8309 3620 or (08) 8366 2822
- Follow us on Twitter @mardenlibrary
- Email: library@openaccess.edu.au

We are looking forward to working with you all in 2015!

Cheers!
The Library Team