A Message from the Principal...

Welcome to the last summer edition of SOTA Speak. I’m sure you’ll already be noticing the daylight hours becoming shorter. You might like to check the sunrise and sunset times on a weather website for a few days, and see how slowly but steadily the earth is angling away from the sun.

It’s great to see our new SOTA families settling in to the school community so well. New faces and voices have joined in enthusiastically and noticeably in Centra lessons, including Japanese lessons, SRC elections and Supervisor Sessions.

Our SRC elections were held this morning and the final results will be announced on Monday’s assembly. Thank you to all students who nominated for various positions. I was very impressed with the way our young ones spoke about the responsibilities and opportunities of being in SRC, and the personal attributes that made them suited to the role. Thanks also to Miss Eatts for conducting the elections so efficiently and entertainingly.

It was very exciting to see the participation in Mrs Chambers’ new-look Supervisor Support Forum. A Supervisor Advice Booklet will be compiled and sent out in a few weeks with lots of useful tips and information. Mrs Chambers has also created an excellent Supervisor Moodle where information, links to useful websites, and a place to ask questions or contribute your own ideas can be found. The role of supervisor for distance ed students is certainly very “full-on”, and it’s wonderful to see such a network of positivity and support being created amongst our supervisors.

Japanese lessons have got off to a great start with Miyamoto Sensei this term, and students are participating with great eagerness. Currently students are linking their language learning to the topic of healthy eating in Health/PE. Great work everyone. Each Japanese language student is also being posted out an exercise book to support their learning, and Miyamoto Sensei will be letting you know how these are to be used. Ganbatte!

Now for something super exciting; the NBN is about to launch two satellites into orbit to enable highspeed broadband to rural and regional Australia, and boy, we do wish them a successful journey! To celebrate, NBN Co is running a competition; if you’re between five and twelve years old, NBN Co would like you to come up with a drawing or painting to decorate the nose cone of one of the rockets that will carry a satellite into space! I can’t think of anyone better to have that honour than a remote and isolated student. So come on SOTA students, get amongst the starts with some awesome art work! Entries are online, and the competition closes on 15th March with winners announced on May 1st.

This information is also available on the OAC facebook page and website.

Cheers for now,

Polly Smart

Polly Smart
SOTA Principal
Hello everyone,
It has been a busy start to Term 1 as always, and we are looking forward to our Term 1 school camp to Camp Kedron at Barmera in the Riverland. This will be held from 23rd – 27th March (Week 9) of this term. More information will follow in our next edition of SOTA Speak!

SUPERVISOR FORUM
This first Supervisor Forum for the term was held on Tuesday of Week 4 at 3:30 pm and had a fantastic turn out.
Thank you to all of the supervisors who attended – it was great to see you there! I am in the process of working jointly with Colleen Manning to compile the ‘Supervisor Tips & Advice’ booklet which will be distributed in week 7. If anyone would still like to contribute to the booklet, please send your ideas/strategies/advice to either myself or Colleen on email. Again, thank you to all the supervisors that have contributed.

SUPERVISOR MOODLE
I encourage all supervisors to log into the Supervisor Moodle to access a variety of resources to support student learning and classroom organization. A list of useful websites have also been added this week.
Instructions on how to access the Moodle have already been emailed to all families. Thank you to Kerry Williams who has already contributed to the chat forum on the webpage! The chat forum is there for people to post questions, strategies and ideas.

DES GROUP
The DES (Distance Education Supervisors) group also held their first meeting at 4 pm on Tuesday of Week 3, to share their schoolroom strategies and experiences to date. Similarly, this was a great discussion and gave everyone the opportunity to share ideas and brainstorm strategies together.
I look forward to a busy few weeks before camp. Please contact me if I can support you in any way. Virginia Chambers  (08) 8642 2077  virginia.chambers@openaccess.edu.au

DATES FOR THE DIARY
DES Sharing Session Week 5:  Wednesday 25th 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 8: Tuesday 18th March (3:30 pm)
What is the event called?  General Supervisor Session 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.
SOTA CGC

The SOTA Committee of Governing Council are looking for a new member!

If you are interested in being involved can you please let Linda Haydon or one of the committee members know.

The next SOTA CGC meeting will be held at the Week 9 camp.

Virginia Chambers  
(08) 8642 2077

virginia.chambers@openaccess.edu.au

CHOIR 2015

CHOIR

If you are interested in joining the choir this year please contact Choir Coordinator, Mr Kerin at SOTA

michael.kerin@openaccess.edu.au

TIMES TABLES MASTERS

Times Tables Master

Jack W - 9 times tables!

(Jo Byrne)
We hope the school year has started well for you. We have appreciated the emails and phone calls and requests at assembly to keep you busy with reading and other resources! It is pleasing to see the variety of resources students are asking for.

**Assembly and Big Reads**

Library Assembly and Big Reads have started again in 2015. Students should log in to the event called ‘Library Assembly and Big Reads’. All students should be enrolled in this session but please let us know if you are having difficulties logging in etc.

We begin at 8.30am with borrowing and then activities begin at 8.40am and stories from 9.15am. We understand some lessons are happening over some of these times and the lessons need to be the priority.

**Premiers Reading Challenge 2015**

More information about the PRC for 2015 will be available soon, but in between, please keep a list of books you have been reading and you can use them for the PRC this year. We will send forms to all SOTA students soon.

If you would like to borrow some resources, or need reply paid stickers or envelopes 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
CALLING ALL WOMEN OF THE SA ARID LANDS

learn be inspired relax

AT THE SA ARID LANDS WOMEN’S RETREAT

MARREE JUNE 18-20 2015

Retreat themes
- Women in rural business
- Health and wellbeing
- Self development
- Arts and crafts

Pampering services for the mind, body and soul will be available
Ticket price to be determined

Interested and want to attend?
- Talk to a member of the organising crew
- Visit the Natural Resources SA Arid Lands website or Facebook page
- Then let us know by Monday 23rd February 2015

Meet the organising crew
- Tessa Bell
  Dukumina Station 8675 8202
- Megan Henderson
  Mt Vivian/Kokatha Stations
  8672 8534
- Jeannie Jellicoe
  Wilga Station 0419 831 679
- Ashlee White
  Cowara Station
- Liz Steer
  Regional Landcare Facilitator
  8649 9202 or 0428 720 869
  or lisa.steer@sa.gov.au

www.facebook.com/naturalresourcesaalandlands

Government of South Australia
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Landcare Tasmania

COMMUNITY INFORMATION