Welcome to the first autumn edition of SOTA Speak.

As you know, plans are well under way for our whole school camp at Barmera and now it’s just a matter of fine-tuning, timing and organising all of the activities. Mrs Chambers is doing an unbelievable job of coordinating all of that, so please be sure to read the camp information from her in this edition of SOTA Speak.

I’m greatly enjoying reading the reports from the itinerant teachers after they have been out working with students and supervisors in their own schoolrooms. Our new Reception students in particular are showing themselves to be enthusiastic little workers who are enjoying school and really trying to do their very best. What a wonderful and positive start to your school years.

I’ve also been impressed by some of the student work I’ve been seeing on assemblies, in Centra lessons, and being submitted to class teachers. It’s exciting to see individual students suddenly “take off”, especially in learning areas that have been a personal challenge and it’s great to see the rich and motivated learning that our students are demonstrating in each year level.

Japanese lessons with Miyamoto Sensei have been very well-attended and I’m amazed at the pronunciation and expression which students are achieving. It’s always been said that the earlier a person can learn another language (or languages) the better, and our young ones are certainly proving that. I’m hoping that we will soon have a connection with a sister school in Japan which will further enrich the learning opportunities. The school is called Oki Dozen and is situated on one of the Oki Islands which are part of the Shimane prefecture (or state). I will be keeping you posted as things progress.

I wonder how many of you saw the news article about the little pygmy possum that got into a mailbag on the Yorke Peninsula. The little fellow travelled 90km to the post office where it was noticed by the mail sorter when he took the mail out of the bag. A lady from Natural Resources came and gave it some flowers and nectar to eat, and then they made sure to take it all the way back to where it came from. As she said; “It was a big day for a little possum”. You can find more details on that story in a slide on the assembly agenda.

Don’t forget that next week is a very short school week, with Monday being a public holiday and Tuesday being a whole-college Professional Development day in Adelaide, so there will only be school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please refer to the weekly planners sent by your teachers to see what learning needs to be done next week.

Cheers for now,

Polly Smart
Hi everyone

How exciting – camp is fast approaching! Please return your camp attendance form as soon as possible so that we are able to finalise numbers for catering and events. Payments can be made at a later date, but it is student numbers that we need to finalise as a priority.

The camp this year will be held at Barmera in the Riverland. The camp committee including myself, Sonya Fels (Parent Rep) and the SOTA staff, have been very busy planning possible accommodation configurations as well as lots of interesting and educational activities! The camp will run from 23rd to 27th March at Camp Kedron, Barmera.

**Camp Kedron**

*Address: 471 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Barmera SA 5345*

Please see the Camp Program attached with this newsletter edition!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

**Things to Bring for Camp!**

*All gear should be named (labelled) carefully*

- bathers and swimming towel
- towel for camp
- thongs or old sandshoes for to/from water activities
- hat / sunscreen
- torch
- suitable enclosed footwear for outdoor activities
- toiletries
- bedding – pillow, sleeping bag or sheets and blanket
- water bottle
- dance costume/props

and

*lots of energy!*
What Activities are Planned for Camp?

Aquatics/water experience activities
Practise for ‘SOTA Dance Performance’
Cyber Safety workshop
Kidsmatter workshop
Japanese activities
‘Bullying No Way’ Day activities
Team sports
Science stations
Art activities

At Night….

Quiz night
DVD night
Night Sky Activity (Trish Ellin)
Games night
Dance performance

SOTA Dance Performance

This week students will be making final class decisions regarding the dance performances at camp. This has been a collaborative effort between the DES group and Miss Chelsea and Miss Jo who have been leading their new HPE programme this term.

Students can access their class dance clips on the relevant year level Moodle and can begin practising their dance routines in Week 7 as part of HPE/The Arts.

There has also been time allocated at camp to practise the performances together.

Diary Dates

Upcoming Dates for the Diary
- **Monday 9th March** – Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
- **Tuesday 10th March** – OAC Staff Professional Development Day (no school)
- **School of the Air Camp** – 23rd to 27th March at Camp Kedron, Barmera

Meetings
- **OPFA Meeting** – Wednesday 11th March
- **ICPA Conference in Adelaide** – Friday 20th March
- **SOTA CGC** – possibly held on Thursday morning 26th March at camp (TBC)
Supervisor Forum Week 8 - Tuesday 17th March

The focus of this session will be to share classroom experiences, offer strategies and idea for one another. I will also promote the new Supervisor Support Booklet that is being finalised and ready for the print run in Week 7! Extra copies will be bought to camp to distribute as well. I would also like to explicitly outline information about set returns, time frames and set summaries especially for new families.

What is the Centra 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.

Topics for Week 8:
- Supervisor Support Booklet
- Sharing schoolroom ideas and strategies with one another
- Outline information about set returns, time frames and set summaries especially for new families.

DES Meeting Week 7 - WEDNESDAY 11th March

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? 3:30 pm
How Long Does It Run For? 30 minutes.
Agenda Items: Please contact Virginia or one of the DES team.

Kids Matter

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a Kidsmatter Professional Development Day. I am really excited about how the Kidsmatter process can be implemented at a primary level to really support and extend what we are already currently doing! Kidsmatter has been implemented across the College in the past, and I am really excited about reinvigorating the key components across the school which are:

- Focusing on social learning needs of students
- working with parents, carers and families
- creating a positive school community
- Supporting emotional wellbeing of students

I will be running a Kidsmatter information session at camp for supervisors and look forward to gaining feedback through parent and student questionnaires. Please watch the newsletter carefully as I am also introducing a ‘Parents Corner’ with useful tips and information about links to community services, strategies to support children in various areas as well as many other topics. The Parent Corner this week will include information about how Kidsmatter is implemented in schools and the underpinning ideas behind it.
So What Is KidsMatter about?

KidsMatter Primary is a flexible, whole-school approach to improving children’s health and wellbeing for primary schools. It can be tailored to schools’ local needs.

Through KidsMatter Primary, schools undertake a two-to-three year cyclical process in which they plan and take action to be a positive community; one that is founded on respectful relationships and a sense of belonging and inclusion.

When schools take on KidsMatter, they build on the work that they are already doing in these areas. KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids.

If you would like to know more, feel free to visit:
http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/

See also the KidsMatter attachment sent with this edition of SOTA Speak.

Cheers
Virginia Chambers

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CHOIR 2015

Planning and personal rehearsals have begun for SOTA’s participation in the 2015 Combined Schools Choir.

Some points to remember:

1) It is NOT too late to join. If you want to join just email Mr Kerin.
2) The six students who have nominated should have received songbooks and the CD of songs and should have started personal practice. They should also have read the email sent out last week regarding the practice at SEW, the mid-August dates for the concerts and the process to follow if you want to nominate for a solo spot. If you do want to try out for a solo spot please let Mr Kerin know asap.
3) There will also be a practice at the Barmera Camp with Mrs Hook.
4) A Centra event has been created for Friday practices. These are scheduled for 10:30am but this time may vary depending on which staff member is available. Keep your ears and eyes open as each Friday approaches.

michael.kerin@openaccess.edu.au

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TIMES TABLES MASTERS

1 × 10 = 10
2 × 10 = 20
3 × 10 = 30
4 × 10 = 40
5 × 10 = 50
6 × 10 = 60
7 × 10 = 70
8 × 10 = 80
9 × 10 = 90
10 × 10 = 100

Times Tables Master
Jack
John
Hayden

( Jo Byrne)
Premiers Reading Challenge 2015

The Challenge is on for 2015. We are sending forms to all SOTA students. If you need another copy they are also available from the Library Moodle. The forms need to be returned to the library by the beginning of September. Remember you can put books on the list that you have read, that you have read in class, that a teacher, parent or supervisor has read to you and also the stories from Big Reads on Fridays. There is no need to worry about whether books are on the PRC list. If you have borrowed books from our library or another library or they are part of school work they are all ok for the PRC list. And, we don’t expect you to stop at 12 books – we need you to keep on reading all through the year!

Assembly and Big Reads

Library Assembly and Big Reads are happening on Fridays. Students need to 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. We are looking forward to catching up on Friday mornings.

If you would like to borrow some resources, need reply paid stickers or Marden 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

Cheers!
The Library Team

R.E.V.I.S.E.

If you have an Upper Primary or Secondary student, one of our REVISE teachers may interest you. She prefers longer placements and has previously worked 6 week placements through the Katherine NT School.

We also have two teachers who will be travelling in June, one towards the west, the other more towards the north. Both would be happy to consider requests in those general areas, as they are happy to consider possible 'detours'.

Trish Ellin
REVISE