Welcome to another edition of SOTA Speak. Thank you to the many who responded to the Working Group proposals regarding the Itinerant Teacher service and SOTA’s face to face program. The group met again while Julie Taylor was here on Tuesday and your responses were discussed and used to direct the next steps. Julie will be sending information out regarding this once she has written up her notes of the meeting. In general, the proposals were well supported, with requests for clarification in some areas.

It’s difficult to believe that our next SOTA Speak will be sent in the Get Together week! We’re all looking forward to the Get Together and plans are taking shape. I hope you are all preparing for sports day, and I have no doubt that you will come up with some great ideas for your superheroes costumes. It is certainly going to be another jam-packed and fun-filled weekend!

I know you are all very busy at this stage of the term, but please make sure you are sending in the information that is being requested by Lynda and others regarding Re-enrolment forms; info that may be needed for Get Together; Wool Show reminders, and anything else that applies to you. It all helps to make the wheels turn efficiently and our planned events run smoothly.

On another note, the process of organising the school’s teaching and support staff for 2016 is progressing as it should. While I can’t give any information on outcomes or processes that are not yet finalised, I can give some details at this stage. Firstly, Ginny Chambers will not be returning to School of the Air as she has been appointed as Student Counsellor at Stirling North Primary School. Student Counselling is a special passion of Ginny’s and an area that she is very talented in, so Stirling North is very lucky! I’d like to congratulate Ginny, and thank her for her wonderful commitment and incredibly hard work with us while she was at SOTA. All of us wish her all the very best. I can also announce that we are very pleased to have Kyoko Miyamoto continuing her appointment at School of the Air in 2016. We all thoroughly enjoy having Kyoko as one of the team, and I’m sure you all appreciate the work she puts into preparing lessons and learning materials. Kyoko will teach SOTA’s R-3 students as well as classes at other regional schools through the OAC Language Partnership Program. SOTA’s Year 4 -7 Japanese students will again be taught by a teacher at Marden. I will keep you informed of further staffing news as I’m able to.

Cheers,

Polly Smart
How do students solve problems?

Each subject area has some set of facts that, if committed to long-term memory, aids problem-solving by freeing working memory resources and paving the way for new contexts in which existing knowledge and skills can be applied. We need to teach different sets of facts at different ages. For example, the most obvious (and most thoroughly studied) sets of facts are maths facts, and letter-sound pairings in early elementary grades.

For maths, memory is much more reliable than calculation. Maths facts (ie, 8 x 6 = ?) are embedded in other topics (ie, long division). A child who has to stop to calculate a simple fact may make an error or lose track of the larger problem.

For reading, spelling and writing, the advantages of learning to read by phonics are very obvious (ie, remembering what sounds letters, and letter combinations make).

Committing facts to long-term memory can only be achieved through consistent and regular practice and application.

Effective feedback is often essential to acquiring new knowledge and skills.

Good feedback is:
- Specific and clear;
- Focused on the task rather than the student; and
- Explanatory and focused on improvement rather than merely verifying performance.

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Parenting SA develops videos for parents of teens

There are many things parents find rewarding about living with teenagers. There can also be some challenges when young people test limits as they become more independent. With this in mind, Parenting SA has commissioned four short videos to provide parents and carers with some tips and strategies for living with teenagers. Each video is complemented by a link to a relevant Parent Easy Guide resource.

Presented by and developed with Adelaide psychologist Kirrilie Smout, the videos focus on the following topics:

- Managing conflict with teenagers
- Teenagers and feelings
- Living with teenagers.
- Helping teenagers stay safe online

Parenting SA is an initiative of the Government of South Australia established in 1996 to promote the value of parents and the important role of parenting. Parenting SA is a partnership of the Women’s and Children’s Health Network and the Department for Education and Child Development.

[View the above videos on the Parenting SA Website]
**Get together – Wool Show**

**Wool Show**

Just a reminder that you are invited to enter the best of your fleeces from your shearing into the annual Port Augusta Wool Show which will be held during SOTA Get Together weekend (4th to 6th Dec). The fleeces will be displayed and judged at the event and prizes will be awarded in all classifications.

Following the Wool Show, Elders will sell the fleeces and from the money raised, a donation is made to School of the Air.

This year, the Wool Show will be held at the **Port Augusta Bowling Club.** (not at Cooinda as in previous years).

Fleeces should be here in Port Augusta at Landmark by 25th November.

Charlie and Adrian or anyone from Landmark or Elders are happy to pick them up when they are out visiting or alternatively the fleeces can be dropped off if you are visiting Port Augusta before that date.

More details to come about Get Together early next term.

Thank you.

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**GET TOGETHER – LAWN BOWLS!**

On Friday 4th Dec, while you are at the Wool Show at the Port Augusta Bowling Club, join Mr Kerin for a ‘roll up the green’ from 3pm to 4pm. Children and Adults are welcome to have a go at ‘Lawn Bowls’.

All the gear required for a fun game of bowls will be provided. Please wear flat soled shoes (or go bare-foot) on the green. Bring a hat. See you there!

*Mr Kerin*

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**Stars of the Weeks**

Congratulations to the following students who have received **Student Of The Week Awards in Term 4.**

**Week 3:** Jock, Justin, Takumi, Jordan, Charlie O, Bridie.

**Week 4:** Sam, Hayden, Maximus, Cody, Joshua, Charlie H.

**Week 5:** Nate, Dougal, Harry, Lachlan, Shae, John, Eddie, Sarah, Cody, Jordan, Jessica F, Tyron.

**Week 6:** Mason, Jessica H, Maximus, Eddie, Akiro, Jessica F, Josh, Charlie O, Arena, Bridie, Charlie H, Tyron, Madison, Evie, Cooper.
**INTERNET REBATE**

DECD provides Open Access College with an Internet Rebate Grant which is used to subsidize the cost of Internet Access for remote and isolated students of School of the Air.

What this means for you is a cheque reimbursement for some of your monthly account!

**All you need to do is produce evidence of your internet plan by providing a copy of your tax invoice from your internet provider.**

I know it can be a hassle to send in your Tax Invoice but unfortunately, for auditing purposes, all claims must include a copy of your Tax Invoice.

You can email directly to me, or print out and fax (08 8642 3563) or send in the mail.

If you are still not clear if you are eligible or you have any other questions about this rebate, please do not hesitate to give me a call on 8642 2077 or send me an email sue.trewartha@openaccess.edu.au

Cheers
Sue Trewartha 😊

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**Times Tables Masters**

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**Times Tables Master**
Shae.

(Jo Byrne)
Premiers Reading Challenge 2015

Congratulations to all those who completed the Challenge in 2015. We have sent out a participation certificate but will be presenting the medals and certificates for the level of PRC achieved at Get Together on Saturday evening. If you aren’t going to be at Get Together please let us know and we will send them out. Well done to all the readers out there!

Assembly and Big Reads

Library Assembly and Big Reads are happening on Friday mornings with activities and stories. We look forward to meeting you there.

Sending resources back you no longer need

We realise Term 4 lessons are still continuing, but if you have resources you no longer need please send them back. We will send out lists later in the term, but you can always request a list at any time and we can email it out to you. And, a reminder, atlases, dictionaries, maths/science kits etc that are used every year do not need to be returned until you are leaving SOTA.

If you would like to borrow some resources or have 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

Cheers!
The Library Team