Dear Families and students.

I’m writing to you from Leigh Creek where we are having the most amazing time at our Mini School. And I have been in regular contact with our friends at Woomera who are also having a terrific time.

**Families, Students, Staff: Many thanks to everyone for making this face-to-face event an absolute winner.**

And many thanks to Ms Klingberg who took care of our stay-at-home students over the week. We had people, for a range of reasons, who were not able to join us at either Leigh Creek or Woomera and it was terrific that you could join in with some of our activities and feel a part of this event. Also a big thankyou to Angela for all of her work in assisting us prepare for the week. I will put in a quick reminder to families that for those who went on Mini School, payment of your Mini School accounts would be greatly appreciated and make Angela extremely happy!

It is wonderful to see our school community come together. The value of face-to-face events in establishing and affirming relationships, not only between the students but also between families and importantly between students and their teachers, has again been evident, and make this an extremely valuable part of the School of the Air program.

And something for everyone to do! Julie Taylor, in consultation with SOTA staff and with our OPFA and CGC Parent leaders, has prepared a survey to complete seeking your views on the changes which have occurred over the past 12 months or so. At SOTA we have certainly worked hard to ensure that the ideas put forward through the Working Party at the end of last year have become a part of how we operate and have provided a quality program for our students which is, after all, our number one priority. Your input into the survey will be a gauge as to how our work has progressed over the year, as well as provide opportunities for further suggestions and ideas. Please be a part of this collection of information.

And to our end of term news! Most will have heard through announcements at Mini Schools, that Miss Chelsea is leaving us at the end of this term. We all wish Miss Chelsea every success and happiness as she takes up a ‘too-good-to-miss’ opportunity to continue working with OAC at Marden. And so we are again on the hunt for an Itinerant Teacher – this time, we have huge shoes to fill! Perhaps we can convince Miss Chelsea to come back for a final farewell at Get Together at the end of year.

**Families, students, staff: Wish Miss Chelsea all the best for Term 4 at OAC Marden and thank her for her kindness, hard work and commitment to the SOTA community.**

Finally I would like to bid you all farewell as Head of Campus. It has been my absolute delight to have worked with you all. In particular, I would like to say a huge thankyou to my Year 7 class and their families – what a wonderful experience I have had working with these young people. I wish them the very best for the remainder of this year and what I am sure will be very bright futures ahead.

Signing off with a last ‘Cheers’. I will see you all at Get Together!

*Lyn Hollow*
Hello Everyone,

I hope that you have all had a fun and productive term that ended with the fantastic Mini-Schools held at Leigh Creek and Woomera. There were certainly some extreme weather events to keep things exciting. Both mini-schools were a massive success and could not have happened without the dedication and efforts of staff, families and students. I would like to thank all those involved in the preparation and execution of the two Mini-School events. Your efforts are appreciated more than you know.

It has come time to say farewell to two of our valued and loved team members, Lyn Hollow and Chelsea Packer. We are sad about the holes these absences will leave in our SOTA family but know that change is a valuable and necessary part of life.

Lyn, who has been our Head of Campus since the beginning of this year, has lead the way in many positive changes. Her knowledge and skills have been invaluable this year and we have been extremely lucky to have had her as long as we have. We wish Lyn all the best for her next chapter and look forward to hearing of her escapades.

Chelsea, one of our amazing and dedicated Itinerant Teachers, began her SOTA adventure at the beginning of 2014. She has absolutely loved the opportunities and experiences this role provided and will remain a passionate Blue Dingo for life. She has been an integral part of the SOTA community, bringing her passions to the field and office. The SOTA community has appreciated Chelsea’s enthusiasm, skills and knowledge and I’m sure will wish her all the best for her next adventure, as do we here at the office.

If you have any suggestions for topics to be covered during Supervisor Support Sessions or ideas for training and development opportunities please email them to me at jessie.eatts@openaccess.edu.au or call on 08 8642 2077.

Some upcoming dates for Term 4:-

**Get Together**

**Friday 9th December – Sunday 11th December**

**Week 8**

**General Supervisor Session Meeting Dates for Term 4:**

- Week 2, Tuesday 25th October at 3:30pm
- Week 4, Tuesday 8th November at 3:30pm
- Week 6, Tuesday 22nd November at 3:30pm

**What is the Centra event called? General Supervisor Session 2016**

**How do I Join?** Find the event listed in the WebEx Live Sessions list and click join. You will then need to enter your name, email address and the password: abc123

**What Time Does It Start?** 3:30 pm

**How Long Does It Run For?** 30 minutes.

**Topics for Week 4:** ‘Engagement and Behaviour Management Strategies’
DESI Meeting Dates for Term 4:
- Week 1, Tuesday 18th October at 3:30pm
- Week 3, Tuesday 1st November at 3:30pm
- Week 5, Tuesday 15th November at 3:30pm
- Week 7, Tuesday 29th November at 3:30pm

What is the event called? DES Distance Education Supervisors 2016
How do I Join? Find the event listed in the WebEx Live Sessions list and click join. You will then need to enter your name, email address and the password: abc123
What Time Does It Start? 3:30 pm
How Long Does It Run For? 30 minutes.
Agenda Items: Fundraising & Sponsorship Ideas. For additions to the DES Meeting Agenda please contact Jessie or one of the DES team.

OPFA & SOTA CGC Meeting Dates for Term 4:
- Week 3, Wednesday 2nd November at 3:30pm - OPFA
- Week 4, Wednesday 9th November at 3:30pm – SOTA CGC
- Week 7, Wednesday 30th November at 3:30pm - OPFA
- Week 8, Wednesday 7th December at 3:30pm – SOTA CGC

I look forward to working with you all next term and hope that you have a safe and happy holiday.

Kind Regards,
Jessie Eatts

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following students who have received Student Of The Week Awards in Term 3.

Week 9: Beau, Elke, Harry, Shae, Sarah, Joshua.

Daylight Saving

Move your clocks forward
South Australians should move their clocks forward from 2am to 3am on Sunday, 2 October 2016. The start of this daylight saving period keeps South Australia aligned with time changes in other Australian states.
WOOMERA MINI SCHOOL

Families from the North West, and Braemar gathered at Woomera for a fun-filled week of Bush Olympic themed activities. It was great to see all students participating in all activities, and having an absolute blast at the same time! There were jokes a plenty all throughout the week, and I think we would have to crown Dougal as the joke king!

Some highlights of the week were our trip to Arcoona Station, where Ruby enjoyed showing us around Lake Richardson. Again huge thanks to Adam and Candice for hosting us all and for putting on such a delicious BBQ dinner!

Bowling was another highlight even though it was cut short due to the power going out. The blackout wasn’t all bad news as it led to one gigantic slumber party, complete with nail painting, hair styling, shadow puppets and some quality bonding time.

Time in gym was a popular choice for all involved with students, parents and staff all keen to put their various skills on show! The week capped off with many stellar performances at the Indoor Bush Olympics.

Thank you to all the families for providing food and for all their help throughout the week. Finally, a BIG thank you to Woomera Area School for allowing us to use their brilliant facilities all week!

We hope everyone enjoys the holidays!

Stay safe if you are on the roads at all!

See you next term!

Miss Chelsea, Miss Eatts and Miss Riddiford
LEIGH CREEK MINI SCHOOL

Early Monday morning shopping done Miss Chelsea, Mrs Hollow (in car 1) plus Miss Jo and Mr Kerin (in car 2) set off for the 2016 Leigh Creek mini school. Fifteen students from 9 families were also enroute.

Lunchtime arrival saw a flurry of unpacking and setting stuff up. A quick tour of the Leigh Creek Area School and gym was followed by serious work. A vigorous girls v boys T-Ball game was well received and lasted for over an hour. After tea twenty minutes of stargazing was followed by an Olympics themed quiz which was won by the 37’s team. An early night was appreciated by all after a big day.

After breakfast Tuesday it was back into numeracy/literacy lessons. We then spent some enjoyable time in the school library. Preparations for our SOTA Bush Olympics included banner, medal, cauldron and torch making. Everyone chipped in knowing they were helping towards the big finale. Jody from Alinta arrived with the mini-bus and it was off to the Leigh Creek Coalfield to see what was going on there in spite of its recent closure. The SOTA kids eagerly climbed the gigantic dump trucks and load hauler and then watch them in action together. Students went to the edge of one of the cut outs and students were amazed at how deep it went down almost the depth of an entire footy field. A game of Frissnet followed then it was off to Chris and his Taekwondo class. This lesson was very well received and memorable especially for the look on Eddie’s face when he was thrown by Chris at lightning speed! Games night finished off another big day and an early night was had again.

An early morning walk to the big tyres display on the highway allowed for a whole group photo to be taken. Unfortunately the planned Aroona Dam excursion was cancelled due to the access road needing repairs and the incoming weather. More T-Ball was played in the afternoon plus final Bush Olympics preparations completed.

THEN AT 3:48pm IT HAPPENED...TOTAL STATEWIDE POWER BLACKOUT. This made life interesting especially for the planned BBQ cookout that was planned for tea this night. Fortunately mums came to the rescue discovering that the school Home Economics Centre had gas stoves. Between flickering candles and flashing torchlights a memorable evening was had by all. Bed was very early this night.

The lack of power was of little inconvenience now that Thursday and the SOTA Bush Olympics finally arrived. A street marathon was followed by a pentathlon (and another game of the now very popular T-Ball) and the presentation of medals. This was hugely successful event.

People now were able to depart for home and hopefully beat the inclement weather that had set in. Many thanks to the Leigh Creek Area School staff for their friendly welcome and use of their facilities. Alinta were also very helpful through Jody (see above) and Rob. Thanks also to Chris for his awesome taekwondo lesson. Finally, thanks to all the students, mums and governesses for their efforts to attend, participate and contribute to the mini school.
If anyone would like to purchase Sports Shirts in Yellow Brumbies, Red Eagles or Blue Dingos colours to be ready for Sports Day at Get Together, please let Angela know with the sizes you require.

All sports shirts are $22 each.

There are some shirts available now at SOTA, and a new order for extra shirts will be placed early next term.
Don’t miss out!

Please contact Angela here at SOTA 8642 2077 or angela.green@openaccess.edu.au

Thanks.

**SPORTS T-SHIRTS**

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Holiday borrowing.**
If you would like to have some resources for the holidays, please let us know by email by the end of the day next Wednesday 5 October. We will send them out in one of the new red bags so they will arrive for you to enjoy over the holidays.

**Returning term 3 resources.**
We are working with the teachers to organise the resources to go out for term 4. If you know you have finished with some from term 3 please send them back. If you are unsure please keep them until you have checked with your teacher.

**Library Activities and Storytelling WebEx Event**
We will be on WebEx on Thursday from 2pm during term 4. See you there.

We look forward to catching up to hear all about Mini Schools too! It sounds like an exciting time!!

If you would like to borrow some resources 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