Welcome to the final edition of SOTA Speak for 2015, and the first one for summer. If you’re reading this issue on the weekend, it definitely will be very hot off the press! A decision to reschedule the sports day activities will need to be made a little closer to the day, and if you are reading this before the event, be sure to check your emails for a notice from Lynda if there has been a decision to change the start and finish time. The staff are all very much looking forward to the Get Together weekend’s activities and I’m sure you are too. Hopefully the weather won’t create too many issues.

Some of our staff will be leaving us this year, but not all DECD appointment processes have been completed yet, so we will make what announcements we can at the Presentation Night on Saturday. We will also have copies of our freshly-printed 2015 School Magazine available to buy on Sunday @ $22 ea. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the magazine, and especially to Chelsea who did the organising and compiling this year.

Formal teaching has now finished for the year, and assessment reports are being finalised. I’m greatly enjoying reading through each student report and hearing of the amazing progress that has been made in learning achievements. It’s a time when I like to remember each student from a time earlier in the year and get a real sense of just how far they have come since then.

While actual Centra lessons have finished, we will have the Assembly event open each day at 11.00am, so if you feel like dropping in for a chat and maybe something fun to do, feel free. This is optional, and is open to all students at any year level.

For a school to function, it must be allowed to focus on its teachers and students. I thank all of you who have supported our teachers with their work this year. I have been personally and professionally impressed with the teams’ engagement with the school community and their absolute commitment to our students and their learning. My thanks go to each of you.

I’d also like to thank the SSOs, the supervisors and governesses who have also dedicated themselves to making the school year a happy and productive one.

Have a wonderful holiday break, a great Christmas and safe travels to all of you who will be on the move.

Cheers for 2015,

Polly Smart
Hello Everyone,

Well Term 4 is drawing to a close and we have an exciting weekend ahead of us. Get Together weekend promises to be full of fun, excitement and collaboration. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and celebrating a successful year together.

Thank you to all of the wonderful people who have been involved in DES and Supervisor sessions over the year. Your knowledge and input have been invaluable. We look forward to continuing and building upon these relationships in 2016.

Hopefully you will have received the draft timetable and consent forms for the 2016 Induction Week via email, if you have not could you please let Lynda know and she will email them out to you. The timetable is packed with training and development sessions and opportunities for supervisors (new and returning) to learn and develop new skills.

2016 Induction Week Dates:
Monday 1st February 2016 – Friday 5th February 2016

I would like to thank all of those who supported me in this role over the past 2 terms, it has been an honor to work with such a wonderful team and I appreciate the hard work and dedication of each and every one of you.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday break and a safe and happy 2016!

Kind Regards,
Jessie Eatts

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Planning has begun for our 2016 SOTA camp at Arbury Park. Sonya Fels is the parent on the Camp committee.

Arbury Park is booked for Term 1 Week 11, commencing Monday April 11.
Families (especially those who haven’t been there before) should visit www.arburypark.sa.edu.au which shows lots of information about the campsite, and has a PowerPoint with background about the AP Outdoor School, the dormitories, dining room etc that would be useful viewing before camp. Camp cooks have advised that anybody with dietary concerns can be catered for. More School Camp information will be sent out to families at the start of term 1 next year.

Please be aware that ALL adults attending will need current police checks (Child Related Employment Screening). If you have not already completed the ‘Child Related Employment Screening’ paperwork please make this a priority as it can sometimes take six weeks or more to be processed by DCSI. Once completed, please post ‘original’ paperwork back to SOTA. (Forms will be emailed out with this newsletter for your convenience, should you need them.)

This would become a priority job for any newly appointed govos. A copy of the ‘Child Related Employment Screening’ form is attached with this edition of SOTA Speak for you convenience.
A FEW REVISE FACTS

- REVISE arranges (at parents’ request) the placement of a REVISE teacher to support the education of isolated students.
- Typical placements are from three to six weeks, with the teacher (and sometimes partner) living with the students’ family during placement.
- REVISE teachers collaborate with SOTA staff before and during the placement to ensure the best outcome for the students and parents.
- REVISE placements can provide support for students’ specifically identified learning needs. Assistance can be provided in developing “classroom” organisation and programming.
- All REVISE personnel, including the manager are unpaid volunteers.
- Volunteer REVISE teachers are reimbursed for part of their travel costs to and from placements.
- Parents make a contribution to the travel costs of REVISE teachers; this is calculated on km’s travelled per placement. Any parent having difficulty meeting the contribution should talk to the REVISE manager, as alternative arrangements are possible.

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

Stars of the Weeks

Congratulations to the following students who have received

Student Of The Week Awards in Term 4.

Week 7: Hamish, Lily, Corey, Sarah, Akiro, Cooper.

Week 8: Nate, Hamish, Todd, Mason, Jock, Dougal, Takumi, Jordan.
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 😊

Times Tables Masters

Times Tables Master Evie
Congratulations to all our Masters throughout the year.
Keep up the great work;
may the Times Tables force be with you 😊

(Jo Byrne)
Returning Resources.
As the end of year draws closer, please return any items you are no longer using.
If you are continuing with OAC School of the Air in 2016 you do not need to return the Maths/Science kits, dictionaries, atlases and musical instruments etc that you use each year.
We have emailed a list of the items borrowed to each student. We would appreciate them coming back to the Library in the post using the Reply Paid stickers rather than leaving them at SOTA for the staff there to send back to the library in the final week.

Premier's Reading Challenge.
PRC Certificates and medals will be presented at the Saturday night event at Westies. If you aren’t at Get Together we will send them out in the mail.
Thank you to everyone who participated in PRC in 2015. Well done!

Holiday Borrowing.
If you are continuing with us for 2016, please let us know by 10 December if you need resources for the holidays. We will send them out so you have books to read etc over the holidays.

Resources for 2016.
We are currently preparing the packs of resources for students to be sent out before school closes for 2015 so they are all ready to go when lessons begin in term 1 in 2016.

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

All the best to families who are moving on for 2016.

Happy holidays and Cheers to everyone
from The Library Team!