A Message from the Head of Campus...

Dear SOTA families and students,

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through the first term. As this halfway mark is reached in our work program, the demand on students to start getting some of their larger work requirements completed is building. The need to manage time for school work over the whole week becomes a priority. Please discuss work requirements with your teachers and let us know how things are going.

**To:** Our older students. Making the very best use of your time and finishing your work is an important responsibility of becoming a strong learner. Please keep an eye on your weekly overviews so that you know what is expected and can be organised and ‘in front’!

We are very keen to have Catharine Riddiford return to us as soon as possible and I know Catharine is doing everything possible to get back here to SOTA. I would like to thank Catharine for her continued work in providing programs for her young students, and also acknowledge our invaluable relief teacher, Yvonne Cockrum, who has stepped in to ensure that their learning program can go ahead.

**To:** Reception and Year 1 students. Miss Riddiford still has a very sore foot. I know she wants to come back to school as soon as she can. She is missing being with you each day. Please make sure you are doing all of your work and trying your best.

Our home visit program has begun and I would like to thank families for making our itinerant teachers welcome in their homes. They play a very important role in the delivery of our programs at SOTA. We rely on our itinerant teachers to assist with the teaching of the children, providing ways in which the learning program can be delivered and learning can be maximised. They are also a vital link for our class teachers to maintain close contact with the students. An on-site perspective ensures we are providing quality tailored learning for all of our students.

Miss Chelsea has taken her passion for teaching Health and Physical Education and added it to her current teaching responsibilities, ably assisted by Miss Jo Byrne. I am confident that the work we are delivering in these subject areas is of an excellent standard and in a subject often considered challenging in distance education mode, our students are doing some interesting and valuable learning.

**To:** All students. Each day, you should be doing some physical activity to make you strong and build your fitness. In knowing about your body, you will learn what you need to do to be healthy. Get moving EVERYONE!

I am very happy to be able to announce that we expect our new SOTA IT technician to start here in the next couple of weeks: more news of this new appointment in our next newsletter. We have welcomed a visit from Ms Robyn Cane (OAC IT) this week to assist us with our technology in relation to our teaching programs. Please keep the IT ‘hot line’ to Marden open for just a short while longer!

Ms Angela Green has started work with student support programs for our students requiring additional assistance with their learning. I know that considerable work has been undertaken over this past week to get programs into place, and I would like to thank parents, the students themselves and our hard-working staff for making this additional support possible.

I hope you all have a terrific upcoming fortnight.

Cheers for now!

*Lyn Hollow*
The recent SOTA GC parent meeting saw a spirited discussion occur around the organisation of the end-of-year SOTA Get Together. The timing of events at the end of this year has caused some concern amongst families who wish to be involved in the Get Together activities as well as the celebrations of RICE’s 40th anniversary.

Both SOTA and RICE have sought to find a solution to clashes which might occur.

Proposed changes to the regular format of the Get Together have met with strong views and opinions. As with all decisions, the desire to have everyone satisfied with the outcome is a worthy goal. The program is ‘proposed’ and as such open to further negotiation.

We are committed to making all of our events the very best they can possibly be for our entire school community.

Hello Everyone,

What a busy time it has been! I hope that you are settling into the school year and the new school routine. It can be a big adjustment period.

The week 6 Supervisor Support Session will be focusing on Sight Word and Spelling Strategies.

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.

Here’s a reminder of some of our upcoming dates for Term 1:-

Camp at Arbury Park - Week 11

Supervisor Support Forum Meeting Dates for Term 1:
- Week 6, Tuesday 8th March at 3:30pm
- Week 8, Tuesday 22nd March at 3:30pm
- Week 10, Tuesday 5th April at 3:30pm

What is the Centra event called? General Supervisor Session 2016
How do I Join? With your Centra login – please ring Jessie 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 4: ‘Engagement and Behaviour Management Strategies’

DES Meeting Dates for Term 1:
- Week 5, Tuesday 1st March at 3:30pm
- Week 7, Tuesday 15th March at 3:30pm

What is the event called? DES Distance Education Supervisors 2016
How do I Join? With your Centra login – please ring Jessie 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: 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 1
- Week 7: OPFA - Wednesday 16th March at 3:30 pm
- Week 8: SOTA CGC - Wednesday 23rd March at 3:30 pm

Kind Regards, Jessie Eatts
**Red bags**

**Urgent – send them back!!**

We’re running very short of Red Mail Bags here at SOTA. With students sending more of their work to teachers electronically, there is not as much ‘toing and froing’ of the mail bags. If you find the bags are growing into a pile in your classroom, could you send some back to me please?

Take one bag, fold the extras in half, pop them inside the first bag and send them back to SOTA.

Thank you

Lynda 😊

---

**Hello from Angela**

Hi all,

For those who have not met me yet – I am the new Finance Officer and have replaced Sue Trewartha in this position.

I have currently been looking into school uniforms for the school and have had some enquiries about a winter jumper / top. I would like to know if families are interested in purchasing any jumpers for winter. We have limited sizes currently in stock (size 10 being the smallest), however I can purchase more if there is an interest. If you are interested, can you return email to me with how many and what size you would like. I welcome any thoughts about jumpers and possible change of styles (this has been added to the Governing Council agenda for discussion).

Also, all families can claim the Internet Rebate. The rebate will now be paid per term rather than every semester as in the past. To claim the rebate, it is necessary for you to provide SOTA with a copy of your internet account from your Internet provider. We require them by late March so your claim can be processed before the end of term.

If you have any queries regarding this, please feel free to contact me direct.

Cheers

Angela

---

**CAMP 2016**

Camp week will be here before we know it!!

Can you please send back your ‘Attendance Details Form’ as soon as possible, as we need to know how many students and adults will be attending. This information will assist with finalising camp arrangements.

Thank you to the families who have already sent back their forms.

Michael Kerin
We hope the school year has started well. 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 are moving and changing for 2016. We are currently working with teachers across SOTA and Marden to find a time to suit. At this stage it looks like an afternoon time slot and we may have different times for Lower and Upper Primary. As soon as times are sorted we will let everyone know.

**Premiers Reading Challenge 2016**

More information about the PRC for 2016 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. Remember it is 12 books that you have read, have been read to you or your class has read. The 2016 forms are on the way to SOTA students.

**Looking for a book?**

If you would like to borrow some resources, 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 2016!

Cheers!
The Library Team