

# SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



AUGUST 2020 Term 3

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS



The resurrection of *SOTA Speak* in a conventional newsletter format is testament to the enduring partnership between SOTA and OPFA. This partnership is strong, vibrant and unwavering because at its heart, is the steely resolve to enable the hopes and aspirations of SOTA students. The intent of *SOTA Speak* is thus, for us as a community to speak to, for, and up, for each other. My colleagues and I are particularly proud to showcase student work and achievements, and look forward to reading *SOTA Speak* to know about community events from parents, governesses, OAC Library, and our wider school community.

In this first issue, we spotlight Year 1 student, Marieke who has been shortlisted for SA English Teachers Association's *Young Writers Award*. You can find her poem on page 14. We also celebrate Year 7 Jessica, for her Gold Award in *Education Perfect English Championships 2020*. Jessica answered 4087 questions this year, placing her in the top 2% of 81000 competitors from around the world. We are particularly proud of their keen interest and initiative to extend their own learning.

We are so proud of all SOTA students for their determination and daily effort in learning. In this issue, we commend the following students: Reception, Tilly for her growing confidence in articulating her perspectives and creativity; Year 1,

Jayden for making steady progress in his learning; Year 3, Micah for participating diligently in class and reading support; Year 4, Ryder for his perseverance and enthusiastic engagement; Year 5, Todd for his pursuit of exciting independent learning; Year 6, Logan who takes personal and active responsibility to improve his reading. My colleagues are delighted and encouraged by their progress.

A parent remarked to me recently, "my children have aspirations". Her belief in her children, and expectations of SOTA reflect that of the founder of School of the Air, Adelaide Miethke. Port Augusta SOTA has a 62 years history, and remains resolute in its purpose - to serve the educational needs of children in outback South Australia.

Since the start of my tenure in the middle of Term 2, I have felt supported by SOTA community – the thoughtful feedback from parents and governesses has enhanced my understanding of the diverse family, cultural and learning contexts. My 4-day immersion at the Twins Station has also provided a positive formative experience of outback life. Hence, I am excited about the personal and professional growth that is ahead of me.

My heartfelt thanks to all in SOTA community for your advice, support and forbearance as I navigate my new professional ecosystem.

My colleagues and I look forward to catching up with all of you in School Experience Week.

Best wishes

**Lai Kuan Lim**  
*SOTA Head of Campus*

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## OPFA/SOTA CGC

### Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

An opportunity for the parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with the Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) to discuss any aspects associated with the school.

### SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

The SOTA CGC discuss governance issues that require further discussion from OPFA meetings.

### OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates

#### All meetings at 3:30pm on WebEx

OPFA	Week 7 – Wednesday September 2 <sup>nd</sup>
CGC	Week 8 – Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September

2020 has proven to throw one giant curveball at the entire world with COVID19 however for those of us already living in isolated areas, it seems we're the envy of many others. Isolation is isolation!

In regard to OPFA/CGC, we are incredibly grateful to have our SOTA Speak back and

thank Lai Kuan for making this a reality. The kids (and especially the Mums) are looking forward to catching up face-to-face again in Week 6, the program looks great.

Having recently moved properties, I have to say I am very grateful to be part of the SOTA community as schooling can often be a stressful factor when shifting. Luckily for us it was just a case of new room a couple of hundred kilometres down the road and business as usual.

We thank all the teachers for their ongoing commitment and support towards our children, understanding the pressures of distance education as well as the addition of Covid this year. It's hard to believe we're already in August!

Kirsty Williams

Chair, OPFA



## ADMIN

An auto hand sanitising station has been installed at the front desk. On entering the SOTA building, sanitise hands and fill in the contractor/visitor book. Also, complete the COVID-19 form.

If you require school uniforms, please contact Kristy. Payments can be made in cash or via EFT/credit card payment.

Do you have an excess of red bag? If so, please flip the label around and post back to SOTA.

## SOTA CLAIMS

Internet claim forms should be submitted to [accounts.payable@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:accounts.payable@openaccess.edu.au) by end of week 9, Term 3.

Face to Face travel forms for School Experience Week should also be submitted to [accounts.payable@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:accounts.payable@openaccess.edu.au) by end of week 9, Term 3.

## TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT



Telephone support for all students is available from the Help Desk on **8309 3500 option 3**. Support is available 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Additionally, the college website has a Help Desk section with [help sheets](#) on how to accomplish common tasks. Details for contacting the Help Desk are also available on the OAC website.

## OPFA FUNDRAISING

Jolly Soles fundraising orders to be submitted to Hollie by Wednesday, 12 August. Cost is \$70.00 per box which consist of 14 pairs of socks.

There are also some spare photo card packs from the term 2 fundraiser if anyone missed out or would like to purchase extra. Cost is \$15.00 per pack. Please contact Hollie at [hollieruth@hotmail.com](mailto:hollieruth@hotmail.com)

## LIBRARY NEWS

What a challenging year it has been. I am pleased to work with students who have risen above and beyond by being involved in a number of challenges of their own, including the Premiers: Reading Challenge, Be Active Challenge, STEM and Indonesian Challenge.

I was thrilled to join SOTA students and families on camp with my very own Storydog, Charlie. He loved you all and it was wonderful to share him with you. Students have enjoyed the National Simultaneous Storytime in May and looking forward to Bookweek in October.

This year we have rearranged the library lesson structure to accommodate some innovative classes. Jodie Zajac, who is new this year too, facilitates afternoon library sessions on web building, animation, book club, fiction and ask the librarian sessions. The library attends assembly every Tuesday and Thursday Morning, with every second Thursday being a dedicated library lesson. These have included new items, themes and special events.

For term 3, students have the task of writing a station story. It came to our attention, that there are not many books on station life or outback Australia, and I thought what better people to be writing about them, than those who live and breathe it. So, I am looking forward to receiving those from students. As for those

who don't live on stations, I look forward to your stories of outback South Australia.

You are able to browse the library catalogue yourself by going to the Open Access website library page. If you need any resources, books of interest or assistance in navigating the online resources please contact the library on:

Phone - 1800 882 328

Email – [library@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:library@openaccess.edu.au)

We are only too happy to help.

Zoe Elliott – Library Manager

Jodie Zajac – Teacher Librarian

Karin Peters – Teacher Librarian

Brenda George – Student services

Joyce Lin – Student Services



## PETER COMBE LIVE IN CONCERT

Thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Drought Communities Programme (Round 1) provided through Outback Communities Authority, **ALL families involved with RICE, ICPA and/or SOTA** are invited to come and join in the fun...



Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August

3pm – 4 pm at Central Oval Conference Room (Port Augusta)

Free of charge.

Come for what will be a first-time experience for some... and a trip down memory lane for others!

*Newspaper Mama, Juicy Juicy Green Grass, Spaghetti Bolognaise and of course...Wash Your Face in Orange Juice*

\*COVID19 Restrictions in place. Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

[sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID19](https://sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID19)





## DES GOVERNESS

Wow, what a year we've had so far! It's hard to believe that we're already into term 3. Although we haven't had as many opportunities to catch up with everyone as per normal, we have still been working hard as a team to come up with fundraising ideas and ways that we can give back to our kids.

As you may have seen in emails or via social media, we are currently running a Thermomix raffle, where you can win a TM6 Thermomix by purchasing a ticket for just \$20. We currently have tickets available. Distance Education Supervisors' unisex caps are also on the way, we are all very excited to see the final products.

We are currently in the process of getting feedback stamps for all families in SOTA, which will be used on uploaded work.



The prize winner will receive the new **Thermomix TM6** with standard accessories.

**Ticket price:** \$20.00 each

**Total number of tickets:** 200

**Draw date:** Raffle will be drawn when all tickets are sold.

**Prize value:** \$2269

Payments can be made by direct deposit to

**ACCOUNT NAME:** Open Access College Council

**BSB:** 105 069

**Account:** 278824640

**Description:** fr thermomix (then full name)

Please email banking receipt to [finance.matters@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:finance.matters@openaccess.edu.au) and [jopthermo@outlook.com](mailto:jopthermo@outlook.com) so that payments can be easily tracked. Type full name and thermomix in the description. On the receipt you are emailing, please provide phone number.

Ticket numbers will be allocated once payment has been confirmed and a confirmation will be sent to the ticketholder via text message, messenger or email.



**FUNDRAISER - Distance Education Supervisors- HIGH PROFILE MESH caps!**

**CAP PRICES:** \$25.00 EACH

Will be ready for sale in September!

Only 50 caps available in the first run, so get in quick!





RICE is excited to announce the return of Play Days in term 3. Play Days are held in remote locations across South Australia and provide opportunities for parents and children to mix, play and learn together in a safe, secure and happy environment. We will be kicking off the term by heading to Yunta, Carrieton, Fowlers Bay and Glendambo. RICE staff provide a range of appropriate activities and resources for children to explore and engage with. RICE staff, parents or caregivers share supervision and care during the session. Play Days provide opportunities for children to experience being part of a group, engage with other children and adults, and learn and develop new skills.

If you have any questions about Play Days or other services RICE provides please do not hesitate to contact the office on (08) 8642 4477 or through our Facebook page.



## SUPERVISOR SUPPORT TERM 3

**Sessions are for ALL Supervisors: Governesses and Parents welcome!**

### Term 3 Week 5

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 3:30-4:30pm**

**Via WebEx (listed publicly; usual password)**

**Sandy Russo** from SPELD will be joining us to talk about past tense.

**Candice Blayney** will be joining us to talk about Berry Street Education Model (BSEM), specifically, flip lid. She will describe what happens to our brain during stressful times, and ways to help students to regulate their emotions and understand what's happening to their brain when they go into fight or flight mode, as well, what it feels like to be centred, present and ready to learn.

With the permission of all participants, all sessions will be recorded and made available to those that aren't able to attend. You can also email through any questions you would like asked if you can't attend.



I truly enjoyed my second visit with Willow and Seb in Week 1 of this term. As you can see, Willow and Seb are continuing to work very hard in all areas of their learning, including physical education, water quality testing, and piloting skills – at ground level only so far of course! We were extremely impressed with Seb's ability to write all his spelling words using edible materials before they were consumed too!

## MS LEA'S ITINERANT VISITS

I had a fabulous time visiting Lily for the second time in Week 2 of this term. I was truly amazed to see Lily's little chickens running around so independently already as they were still snug in their eggs beneath the mother hens during my visit last term! I was able to see Lily affectionately caring for all of her delightful pets and working very creatively in her school room. I now know so much more about sheep farming too; thank you kindly Lily.





## MK'S HOME VISITS

Week 1 took me back to Martins Well for the first time this year and the first time to have Tilly officially in the schoolroom. She is doing very well. Week 2 was my long trip back to Clifton Hills (via Cowarie to collect a printer) after an absence of three years. Beau (and Saxby) have really shot up as you would expect. Beau has settled back into SOTA life without missing a beat. Week 3 proved very adventurous. I was supposed to spend the week at The Twins with the Rankins for a few days and then to supervise the ICPA Federal Conference invasion, bringing another 10 or so students to The Twins for two days. Due to the forecast rain, families decided to stay put on their stations. The Twins received 23 millimetres of much needed rain. Wednesday night under a tin roof bedroom was magnificent to hear. On Friday afternoon Ryan led myself and Tamlyn out to the Stuart Highway via an alternative (less sloppy) road. My motto of trust local knowledge proved itself yet again.





## MILLY'S HOME VISITS



It was a pleasure to visit many different school-rooms over the last weeks. Thanks everyone for being so welcoming and for sharing your learning experiences with me!

Some creative projects SOTA students engaged in were the pademelon wedding from Martins Well, tessellation artwork from Holowilena, bubble painting from Millers Creek, aluminum foil painting from Braemar and shaving cream patterns on paper from Todmorden.





## MS AMANDA'S RECEPTION

**Numeracy** – Using informal units to measure length, capacity, volume and mass.

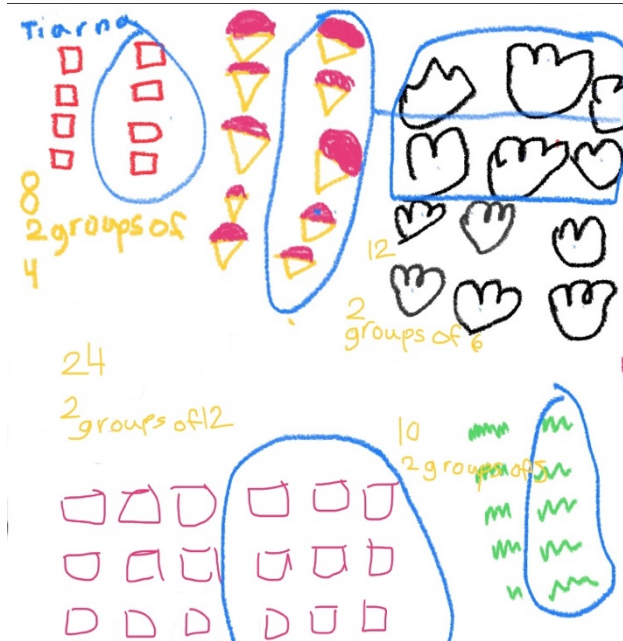
**Literacy** – Procedural text structure. The magic 'e' on the end of words makes the vowel say their name. As well as including more information in morning talks and weekend recounts.

**Integrated Unit of Work** - The world around us, weather, seasons and space.

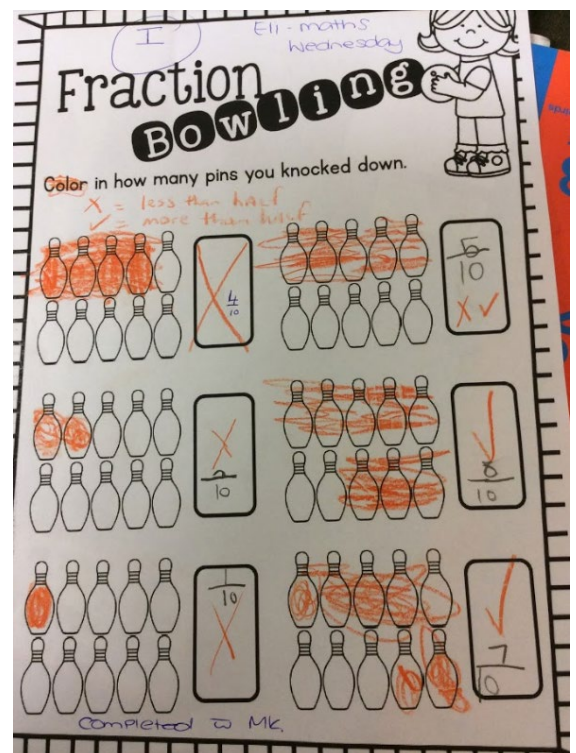
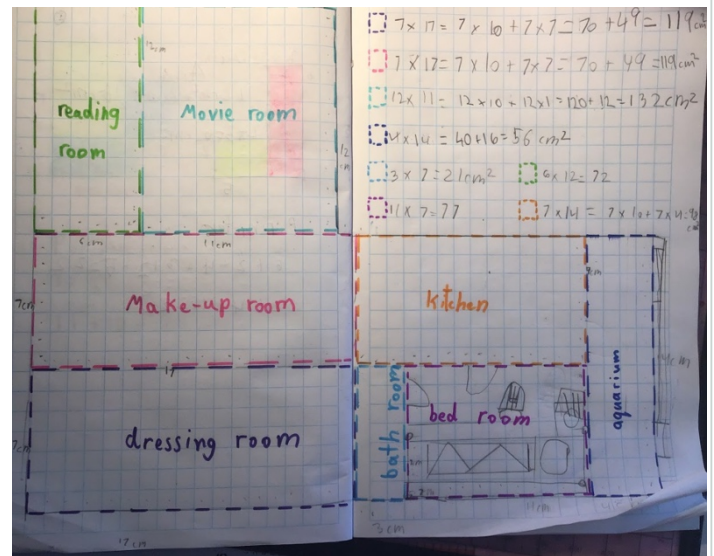
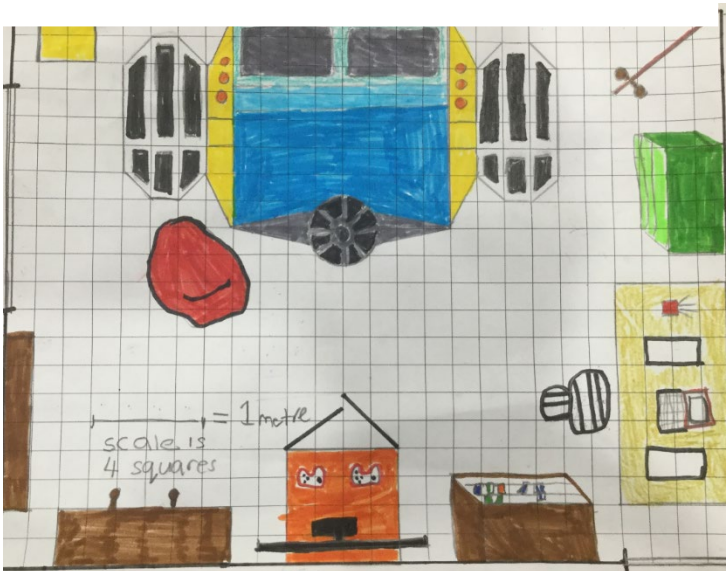
**Child Protection Curriculum (CPC)** - Personal space, safe and unsafe touch.







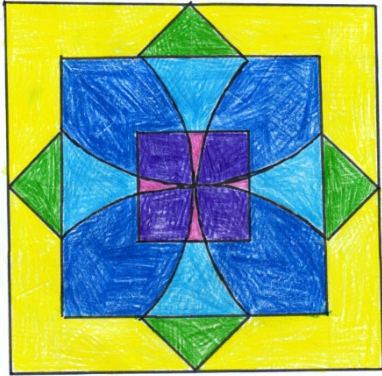
## MR CLAYTON'S YEARS 1 & 2



This semester the year 2 students have been exploring how to measure the length, area, capacity and mass of different objects. The year 1 students have been exploring fractions and in particular, they've been exploring halves of whole objects and collections. Both the year levels have been looking at information reports this semester for their literacy.







The Year 7s have been looking at *wordplay*: codes, ciphers, secret languages and all things playful in the English language. Can you crack the following codes?

Isabel: Pdana eo jk hwga wp ywil cnaaj  
hwga. Pdana kjya swo w ranu  
hwnca hwga dana, pda hwncaop  
hwga ej Patwo.

Jessica: J mjwf po mblf upssfot 2 ipvst  
bxbz gspn Qpsu Bvhvtub.

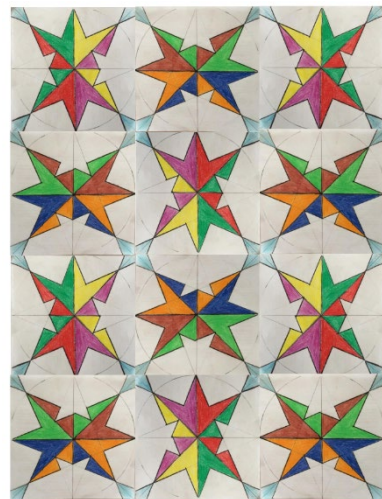
Hayden: L kdyh d kruvh fdoohg mhzho  
dqq vkh lv d jluo.

Lily: Dezcx mzej wtgpo mpehppy esp  
nzzczyr lyo esp dpl. Std szxp hld  
esp wzyr, wzyr dyzfe zq lyostww  
lyo dnfm esle nfcgpd lhj dzfes  
pldehlcod qczx esp Xfcclj xzfes.

If you can, you may recognise the first lines of two novels we are reading in English this term, *Holes* (by Louis Sachar) and *Storm Boy* (by Colin Thiele).

For the Year 5/6 class, *Earth and Space Sciences* is the Term 3 topic and the investigation of major geological events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis in Australia, Asia and the rest of the world is our focus for the first few weeks. Early glimpses of the students' developing projects concerning the world's most devastating earthquakes are intriguing.

At the end of Term 2, both classes had a quick look at how Islamic artisans produce their tessellations in art and architecture. The artwork of Isabel (above, left) and Todd (right) are examples of the type of tessellating patterns that we were able to generate using the same techniques.



MR TANTI'S YEARS 5-7

## YOUNG WRITERS AWARD 2020



Congratulations to Mareike on becoming a finalist of South Australian English Teachers Association's Young Writers Award 2020,

Here is the poem that Mareike submitted.

### **Just a dream**

"Brrrrrrrrrr. It's freezing here!"

Sparkling, white snow is covering the ice on the lake.

Sharp, edgy rocks are shimmering in the sun surrounding the ice.

"Brrrrrrrrrr. It's freezing here!"

Are there orcas in the water I wander?

Or is that a leopard seal I can see in the distance?

"Brrrrrrrrrr. It's freezing here!"

How deep is the water under the ice?

I don't know, but I am going to find out.

"Brrrrrrrrrr. It's freezing here!"

The lake is calm, no sudden movements under the ice.

Yes, this feels right.

Brrrrrrrrrr. It's freezing here!

The ice cracked under my feet. The water is cold.

Time to wake up!

Brrrrrrrrrr. It's freezing in my bed. Where is my blanket?

Good morning winter. Good morning world.

Are you ready for me to explore your secrets?





### Term 3 Week 1

*Reception:* Connor for consistently giving 100% to all of his learning tasks.

*Year 1:* Shaquille for actively engaging in our maths lesson, even when he's unsure if the answer is correct or not.

*Year 2:* James for his diligent work ethic and the positive attitude towards learning that he brings to every lesson.

*Year 3:* Micah for actively and persistently trying and taking initiative for his learning and reading lessons.

*Year 4:* Beau for engaging with his new class and taking active interest in his learning.

*Year 5/6:* Todd for having shared his massive self-initiated project on 'Space' with the class.

*Year 7:* Lily for so ably chairing SRC meetings in Semester 1.

### Term 3 Week 3

*Reception:* Jase for his continuing punctuality and engagement during WebEx lessons

*Year 1:* Eli for his continued positive contributions in all webex lessons.

*Year 2:* Anakin for his diligent work ethic and positive attitude in all WebEx lessons

*Year 3:* Katie for actively participating in class discussions and for self-correcting and proof reading her work before submission.

*Year 4:* Aurelia for returning all her work in timely fashion.

*Year 5/6:* Logan for engagement and participation in WebEx lessons, especially during 'Reader's Theatre'

*Year 7:* Hayden for active participation in WebEx lessons.

## EVENTS

Pupil Free Day: **17 August**

School Experience Week: **24 – 28 August**

School Closure Day: **11 September**

Last Day of Term 3: **25 September**

First Day of Term 4: **12 October**





