



SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter

December 2021 Term 4



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

As we come to the end of the school year, we have so many things to be thankful for.

First and foremost, we are thankful for the students who attend school every day, even when they are tired, grumpy or sleepy. Online learning is not a natural act; it requires explicit structure, support and socialisation into learning routines. Online learning is isolating if a community of learners is not established to provide peer support and social engagement. Learning involves social interaction, particularly at primary school age. With a small class size, attendance by each and every student becomes the first important step in creating a warm learning atmosphere. Through sheer hard work, SOTA teachers and supervisors have succeeded in creating an online learning environment that is conducive for the students to engage and learn.

Next, we are thankful for staff who work hard at improving learning for students. I get a buzz when I hear Mel and Tennessee laugh hysterically during their Webex lessons. I get a buzz when Tom tells me that he wants to finish his last lesson of the year with Jayden. I get a buzz when Milly tells me how much she enjoys the verbal feedback sessions. I get a buzz seeing Megan's return from her long trips - exhausted but delighted. I get a buzz when MK and Eric take a Webex lesson to support their colleagues without any fuss or fanfare. I get a buzz when Kristy reminds me of the food allergies of various students. I get a buzz when I read Dione's detailed emails about student progress. I get a buzz when Jordan reports on his research of the most appropriate iPads for students. I

also get a buzz when Julie and Marden colleagues cater to the specific needs of SOTA. Each staff member makes a significant contribution to student learning in their respective roles and shapes the culture and atmosphere of the school.

SOTA is humming because of staff, students and supervisors. It is also humming because of the strength of parents, individually as well as collectively via OPFA or CGC. Besides the sponsorships that enrich students' school experience, SOTA is also well supported by SPELD, RFDS and Arid Lands because of the social and political capital of OPFA. How lucky are our Years 6/7 students to have a tour of the Parliament building by the Member of Parliament Dan Van Pellakaan, and a meeting with The Governor, Her Excellency Honourable Frances Adamson in the Government House! All schools engage parents, but not many establish intentional partnerships to the extent of SOTA and OPFA/CGC, which makes SOTA a diminutive community school. Each community member contributes to SOTA's educational and social wellbeing, shaping the culture and atmosphere of the school.

A big thank you to everyone in SOTA community for contributing to the success of the school as well as supporting each other through the struggles. We look forward to seeing all of you at Get Together. If you can't join us, on behalf of the SOTA community, I wish you a joyful and safe holiday.

We look forward to returning in 2022 – in good health and spirit to learn from, and support each other.

Best wishes,
Lai Kuan
SOTA Head of Campus



OPFA AND 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

OPFA: Week 3 (T1) Wednesday 16th Feb 2022 WebEx)

CGC: Week 4 (T1) Wednesday 23rd Feb 2022 (WebEx)

As we come to a close for 2021, CGC and OPFA would like to extend a warm thank you to all those that have sat through hours of meetings, taking minutes and ensuring our magnificent little school runs like a well-oiled machine. It is the hours behind the scenes, and in front, that allows us all to attend well-funded face to face events, offer our kids outstanding experiences and have valuable input into how SOTA is run to its full potential. Just by being a committee member means you have a desire for wanting the best education for our students and turning up means you have the drive to help make it happen. These committees rely on the contribution and experience of our families so please consider stepping into a role to lend a hand. We would like to wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas, a festive and prosperous New Year and of course, a wonderfully exciting Get-Together! Thank you

Leisa Breeding – Chair SOTA OPFA

Petie Rankin – Chair SOTA CGC

DISTANCE EDUCATION SUPERVISORS



DES GOVERNESS

Hi everyone, wow this year has really flown by! I have been lucky enough to work alongside a wonderful group of governesses this year and I really appreciate the help and support they have provided throughout the course of the year! We have been able to do a few fundraisers this year which have included:

- DES funded Resource/sports packs – At the beginning of the year we were able to put together a list of schoolroom resources and sports equipment and the lists were sent out to all families, they were given the opportunity to pick out the equipment they would like, and we were then able to provide each family with their desired resources and equipment from that! We hope each family will continue to get great use out of these packs!
- Cookbook- The cookbook was an idea inspired by the Broken Hill “Boots off aprons on” cookbook, this inspired us to make a version of our own! It was a very long and tedious process, but we hope everyone enjoys their cookbooks, they are a great keepsake. These are available to be picked up at Get Together!



- Raffle- This was a money prize raffle that was done at the Glendambo gymkhana where we sold 100 tickets at \$5 each and the winner was drawn out of a hat and took \$200 cash, and the \$300 leftover was raised for the DES group.
- DES Ball- The DES Ball is set to go ahead again this year depending on ticket sales. This event will be held at the Quorn Community Hall this year on the 11th December. Merchandise will be available to purchase on the night! We will have a DJ to keep us entertained as well as novelty games with a fuel voucher prize up for grabs. Beau and Belle of the ball will be announced on the night! We are hoping to see a good turnout for this fundraiser event!

So, a big thankyou to the DES girls who helped with all the fundraising this year!

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Good luck to everyone who is continuing within the SOTA community next year and to everyone who is moving onto new adventures!

Amelia

REVISE



With 11 placements and 11,061KM, REVISE managed all but 1 request in spite of COVID in 2021. There will be a change at the 'top' for 2022. Georgy Ewing has agreed to take over the coordination/manager spot in REVISE. So note the changes from 2022. Email ladygewing@gmail.com phone 0408 897 818. You will also get her on manager@revise.org.au and through the website.

REVISE wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and all the very, very best for 2022. Regards Trish

DOLPHINS TIMES TABLES QUEST

As an aid for our quest to lift the rote learning of the 1→12 times tables please check out [Timestables.com](https://www.timestables.com) to help achieve this aim.

2021 YEARBOOK COVER COMPETITION

Thanks to the nine students who entered this competition. The winners will be revealed when the Yearbook is released.



A BIG THANKYOU TO SO MANY GENEROUS BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR DONATING TO OUR END OF YEAR AUCTION:

Congratulations to the entire OPFA committee on contributing to the end of year fundraising efforts – a great response from most.

Check out if you haven't already the new "SOTA SA Fundraising" Facebook page – please invite your friends to like this page, like and share the posts and keep showing your support.

We are very lucky to have the support of so many individuals and businesses and it is worth noting all that have been kind enough to contribute.

Auction is Friday 3rd December @ Central Oval after the field days.

Auction Donators

48 Lazy M Jerky
9 mile Tack
Amanda Brooks Art
Asg/Bianco
Barb Wire Belts
BBB
Bendelby Ranges
BHP
Binaco
Blinman Mine
Bush Covers & Collars
Co
Comfort Inn Suits Port Augusta
Country Jems
Courela Shearing Supplies
Crowders Streaky Bay
Daniel Hatcher
Design My Hat
Durhum Downs Social Club

EKR Candles
Elders Burra
Grant Sheds
Indulkaninna Foundation
Jeff Morgan Gallery
Jordan Pritchard
Karawartha Home
Kewis Oysters
Laura Jayne Wicks
Long Legs Art
Majestic Oasis Apartments
Marike B Courage
McArdle Freight
McBridies
McDouall Peake Pty Ltd
Megs Book Shop
Northpoint Toyota
Nutrien Ag Burra
Oodnadatta Pink Roadhouse
Paramount Browns

Port Lincoln Tourist Park
Rawnsley Park
REACT
Roxby Earthmoving
Rubi & Red Resin
Salt Bush Surf
Senturion Steel
Seppeltfield Winery
Sew Delight Quilting Retreat
Smokey Bay Oysters
Steph Roeske
Streaky Bay Meats
Tahani Pearls
Taroom Vet
Two Wells Fodder
Wanda Aboriginal Shop
Water-Bore-Pump
Wild West Oysters
Wilpena Pound Resort
Wrights Air

Trucker Caps Donators

AL & KJ Luckcraft
Barb Wire Belt
Blackoak Quarries
Cat na Hat
Copley Cricket Club
Copley Gymkhana
Country Trucker Caps
Cowboy Roy
CTCF - Cutting Tracks Trucking
Fats
Depot Springs Station
Dulkaninna Station

Durhum Downs Social Club
GFour
Glendambo
GRPA - Gawler Ranges
Progress Association
Lockwood Cranes
Mavericks Western Store
North Moolooloo Golf Classic
NTS Rural
Oodnadatta Race Club
Quorn Stock Yard Arena
R M Rural Contacting

RFTTE - Ringers from the Top
End
Rose Rural Construction
Roxby Earthmoving
Sitting Bull
Stock Yard Arena
William Creek Sport Club
Williams Cattle Company
Willouby Way Horsemanship
Wrangler



MK'S HOME VISITS

Hi all

Term 4 Week 4 Braemar (Burra) with Abby. A highlight was listening to her play guitar whilst mum was on the phone to the record company negotiating Abby's first album release! (look closely)



Term 4 Week 5

An educational week in Adelaide with the Year 6/7 classes. We visited OAC at Marden, West Beach Adventure Park, Glenelg Jetty, Migration Museum, Government House (where we met the new Governor as well as her boss The Queen who was standing around the garden), Parliament House (with our host Dan van Holst Pellekaan), Adelaide University, SA Museum, SA Art Gallery, Old Adelaide Gaol, Adelaide Zoo, Botanic Park, Marion shops, Central Market and Maritime Museum. Phew!!



Term 4 Week 6

Back up the Strez to catch up with Shaquille and Sanaisha at Innamincka.

Term 4 Week 7 - lots of TRT at SOTA all week.

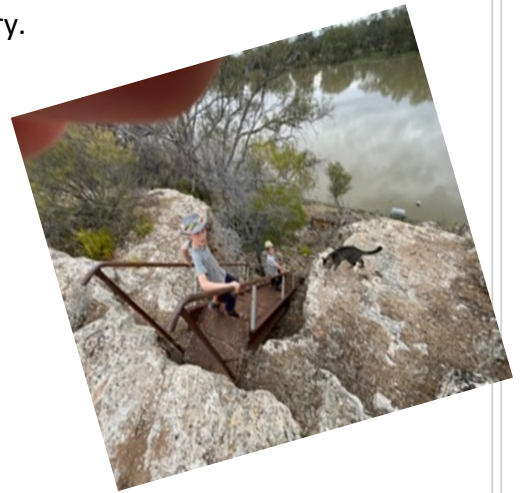
MK



MR ERIC'S HOME VISITS

Since I last wrote, I have been out to visit Winsome and Sam, where the wind created a lot of dust flying around. At Jayden and Micah's I saw the Murray River rising due to the release of water upstream for an environmental flow, and I finally made it out to see where Martin and Mareike live as the roads opened.

Fortunately, I was accompanied out to the Highway Wirrulla as more rain fell and the clay pans became very slippery.

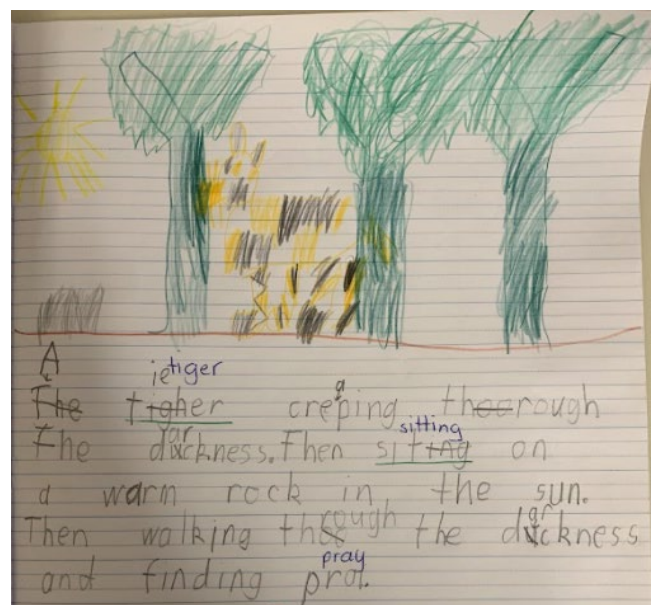
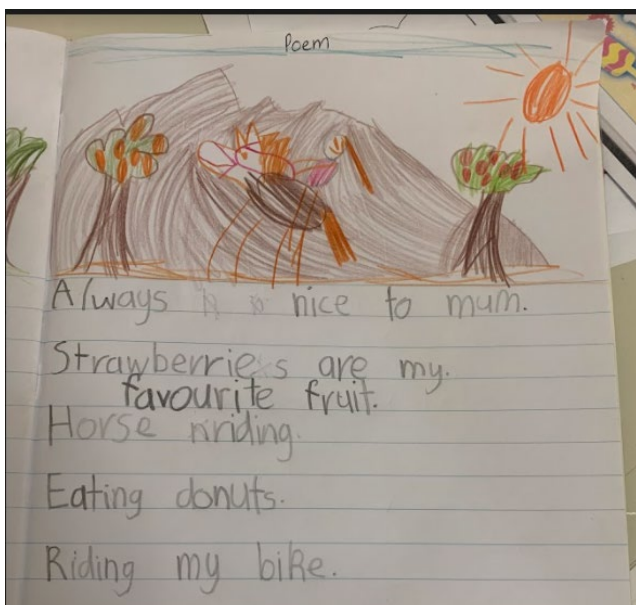
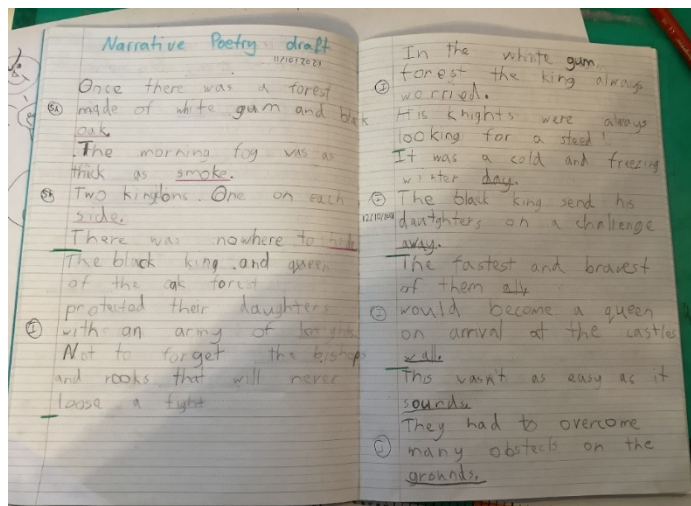
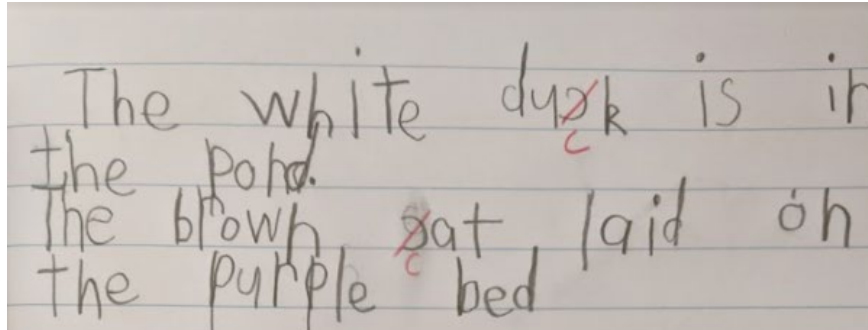


MISS MEGAN'S HOME VISITS

November brought rain to the Outback, and we all celebrated. What a wonderful way to begin the summer and see out my year of amazing visits. Smiles all around! Miss Megan



MR CLAYTON'S RECEPTION & YEAR 1



The receptions continue to develop their phonics skills by writing simple sentences! Both the Reception and Year 1 class continue to develop their skills in their genre writing unit for the term, poetry.



MISS MILLY'S YEARS 2 & 3

Year 2:

This term we created a variety of short poems and illustrated them with artworks. Jayden and George wrote about a place using comparisons. Lara described a day with rhymes. Shaquille built a pulley with his Lego for our Science unit on push and pull forces. In Maths, we practised how to collect data with tables and tally marks. Eli applied his skills inside and outside the classroom.

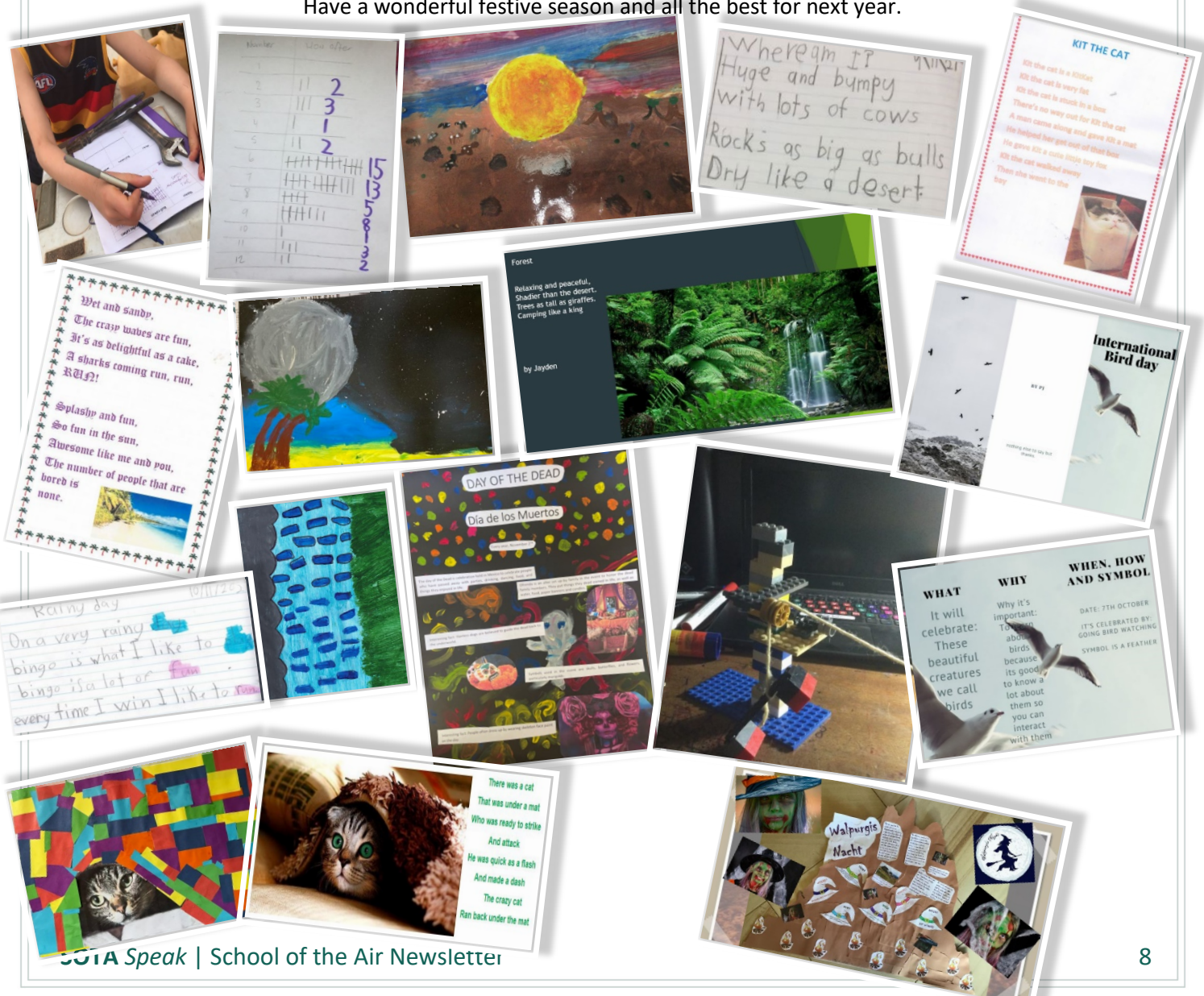
I would like to congratulate you all on your growth and your great learning achievements this year. I wish you all a wonderful festive season and all the best for next year!

Year 3:

James, Lachie and Nelson created poems and illustrated them with their artworks or other imagery. In history we explored different celebrations and commemorations in Australia and around the world. Mareike decided to research Walpurgis Nacht and Magenta learned more about the Dia de los Muertos. PJ created his own international day about birds and designed a flyer.

It has been great to see everyone's learning achievements and successes this year. Congratulations to you all!

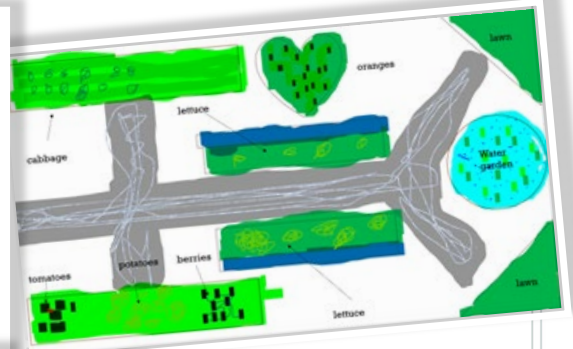
Have a wonderful festive season and all the best for next year.



MISS TENNESSEE'S YEAR 4 & 5

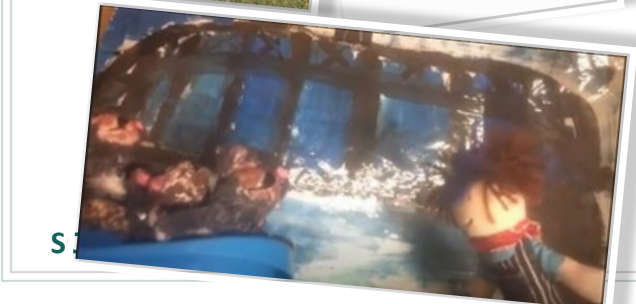
Both the Year 4 and 5 class have finished the year with lots of strong learning. In the Year 4 class we have been learning about techniques to help us write funny poems. In Maths we have been learning about the ways to describe probability. After learning about rules, laws and diversity, we created groups to help bring people together. We have been conducting lots of experiments to explore force. In drama, we made puppets and a stage to use to perform scripts we wrote. The performances were lots of fun to watch!

In the Year 5 class we learnt how to write ballads and narrative poetry. We have also been busy learning about 24 hour and 12 time and writing the probability of something happening as a fraction. The students planned amazing kitchen gardens and presented them to class. After learning about democracy, everyone became candidates in an election and created a publicity banner and speech. In Drama, we wrote mime scripts and performed them. Everyone made very funny videos and we enjoyed watching them. Well done to everyone for the amazing work you have produced this term!



The Cat Who Saw Santa

One Christmas Eve
When it was all dark,
And the stars shone like diamonds in
The sky above the park.
My big grey Tom,
Was sitting in his chair,
When down the chimney came Santa
And gave my big Tom a scare.
Up jumped the Cat and
Hid under the mat, then Santa
Said sorry there's no need to worry,
Come have a sip of my Fanta.
Then Santa unpacked
The toys under the trees
Goodbye for now 'til next Eve
And off he set to travel the seas.





MS MEL'S 6/7 – ADELAIDE CAMP

By Elke, Todd, Logan and Holly

Monday

We left Port Augusta at 9:15.

At 3:00 we arrived at the awesome West Beach Adventure Park. We started off by going on a giant swing.

We went on the MegaClimb tower, where there were heaps of challenging obstacles that you had to complete. One of the obstacles that I did was walking across a 7m ratchet strap, suspended 8m above the ground. All of this was quite safe, because we were strapped into harnesses and if we fell off, we would just be hanging in our harness.

The scariest obstacle was where there were two platforms quite close together. Between them, hung a rope with a plastic triangle attached to the bottom. You had to lean out and get the rope, and then put one foot in the plastic triangle and swing across to the other side. I may or may not have got to the other side successfully without falling into my harness.

When we got to the top, we had to climb up to the Crowsnest and when we got there we enjoyed the view and 'Spotto-ed' all the yellow cars that we could see.

One of my favourite parts was jumping down to the ground from the top, and as Holly said the whole time, the overseer pushes you off the platform.

Tuesday

The first excursion we went to was the Migration Museum. We did this activity called unpacking a person. It was very interesting to look through someone's old things from when they migrated. The belongings of the person inside the case also smelt old and almost mouldy in a way. When we had finished the man who was guiding us, whose name was Dave, told us a lot more information about why people migrated and who could migrate and why South Australia wanted people to migrate in. We got a lot of interesting information from Dave in the time that we were there, but we had to get going to Government House.

I really liked going into Government House, it looked really fancy and had a lovely garden. My first thought about it was that it looked like a mini version of the Queen's palace. The doors were so big and grand as we walked in. All of the floor was carpet and I felt so bad walking with shoes on. We saw the dining room with the plating all set up ready for dinner that night. It looked so nice and neat. As we were in the old dining room we got to meet Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC. She was very nice and asked us all where we lived and what type of station we lived on e.g., sheep, cattle or tourism. It was great meeting her and was an excellent experience. Our guide Jan was very nice and knew lots about the history of Government House. When we were in the tearoom she



let us sit in some of the old furniture and explained what we were sitting on and why it was important. Some other rooms we visited were the ballroom, the library, the drawing room, and the old living room.

For lunch we went to Rundle mall food court, and all got sushi. We had a few spare minutes before we had to be at Parliament House, so we stopped in at Haigh's Chocolate shop.

Parliament House was very nice and Dan Van Holst Pellekaan knew a lot of historical information about both the red and green rooms and Parliament house in general. When Dan had to leave, Bridey took over for him and finished our tour. She told us lots of great stories as well. We got to see the library and a safe full of really old and valuable books. Another man came to tell us about the books, and he knew a lot about them but couldn't tell us the price all of them together. Overall, both Government and Parliament House were great and really enjoyable.

For tea we went for a walk in North Adelaide, where we were staying, to an American restaurant for tea. They were really nice and delicious meals.

Wednesday

Wednesday kicked off by walking (almost) all the way from our hotel to the Central Market! We got to catch a tram on the way there since it was too far to walk. When we arrived there, we could smell a lot of weird foods and it was extremely strange. Everything was closed so there wasn't much to do there so Miss Mel and MK decided that we should start walking to the Adelaide Gaol, yet again, taking a tram!

It was such a long and tiring walk all the way there, it was so hot too! We eventually got there and we had the coolest tour guide, Elsa. She was so happy and fun! We got to see where the prisoners talked to their family in the earlier days and then where they got to talk in the later 1900's. The next thing we looked at was one of the courtyards. It was really empty but it felt full in a way. On the top of the wall, bricks were laid out so that prisoners couldn't escape, as soon as they would try and get out, bricks would fall down and make an extremely loud noise that would make guards rush to try and catch them. If they did escape, it was never long until they were found again. On the doors of the cells there was lots of swear words on the back and sometimes even marks where they would try and escape. We then moved to where the women prisoners were, which looked a little bit nicer because there was some flowers near the gate that were 100 years old! The women's courtyards looked the same as the men's. In the late 1900s they decided to build a room that joint two of the courts together so they could interact with each other and get to do fun things like poetry, painting or games! There was a large painting of some hills that one of the prisoners painted. We looked at some other stuff there and after that we walked the rest of the million kilometres back to Rundle Mall for lunch.

After lunch, we went to the Art Gallery and had an art session. In our art session, we learnt about this Aboriginal man who painted on boab nuts. We all got a piece of paper with 2 outlines of boab nuts and got to draw on each of them however we liked! Once we did that a tour guide took us on a tour around the gallery to look at lots of different Aboriginal artworks. The whole place was really spacey and airy; the only thing in the rooms were the art hanging up. It smelt a little bit like fresh paint as well! There was lots of different varieties of art such as



paintings and sculptures. It was a little bit boring, to me, but maybe more interesting to artists or people who had an interest in art.

We completed all of the touring in the art gallery and walked over to the museum which wasn't that far away! When we got there, we were given an iPad to do all these questions about the museum on. Holly and I were in a team together while the boys paired up. Sadly, we lost and Logan and Todd won. That night we just had pizza back at the room because we were all a bit tired (must have been all that walking)!

Thursday

On Thursday, we went to the Botanic Gardens and had a tour around. On the tour we smelt some plants that smelt bad and we got to eat some strawberries. We went inside a big glass dome that acted as a greenhouse and it felt like a rainforest with all its green plants.

After our tour we walked along North Terrace to the big war memorial statue for the minute silence at the Remembrance Day service. We heard a bugle playing and someone gave a speech for the service. The Governor and Premier were also there for the service. The person giving the speech asked if anyone had any wreaths to lay and people came up and put their wreaths down at the base of the statue. The statue was of Jesus and was made out of concrete and marble and it was very big.

Next we walked back to the car and drove to Adelaide Zoo and checked in. We had lunch there at the zoo café. We got to choose an animal to do a worksheet report about. I chose the monkey. After that, we had a look at some birds that were very loud and colourful. We continued walking around the large spread out zoo. When we went to see the pandas, they were both asleep which was boring. We saw the lions being fed. They were really hungry and were scratching at the door for food.

As it was raining we then went to the mall at Marion and we had tea there. After that we went out bowling. I did really well the first round but in the second round I did really bad. It was really fun going out with everyone. We went back and went to bed after another long day.

Friday

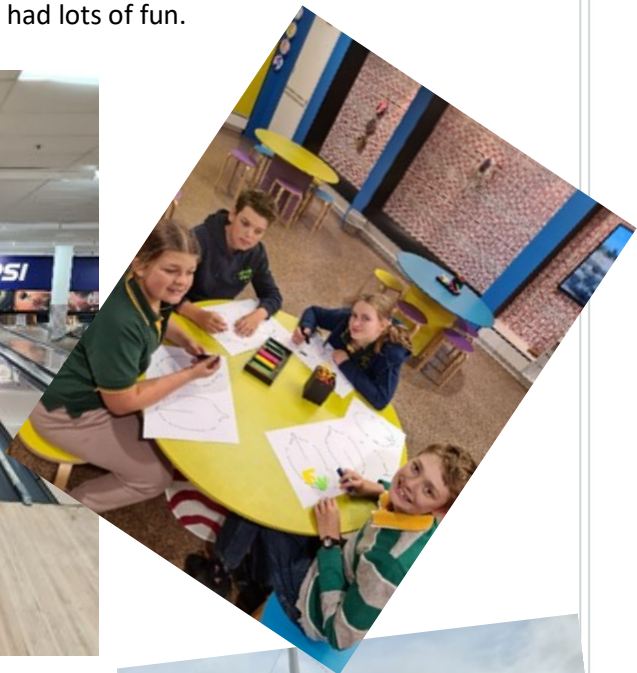
On Friday, we went to Port Adelaide. When we found the Archie Badenoch, the boat we were to ride in, we could instantly smell the fumes. I saw the steps at the back of the boat and I walked up them and put my head out the top. It was spitting rain and I was imagining that it was sea spray. After we docked, we walked to the Maritime Museum.

We were allowed to go on the ship that they keep in there and turn the wheel, which was fun. We got to look inside the captain's cabin, the hold and also the sailor's cabin that smelt like the drink port.

Everyone saw the section that they made that was dedicated to Pamela, who as a kid really wanted to become a sailor, but in those days, it was unthinkable for women to be sailors. Instead, she booked passage on a cargo ship and fell in love with the captain.

We saw the types of facilities there would have been in early boats, very open toilets where you have absolutely *no* privacy at all, which the ladies used, the men just did their business over the side of the boat. There was audio in some rooms, where people who were on boats once recounted their trips.

Thankyou MK and Miss Mel for organising the camp. I'm sure we all had lots of fun.





Term 4 Week 5

Reception: Charlie for her engagement in our reading lessons and supporting her peers.

Year 1: Jase for his perseverance in all learning areas, even when the learning is challenging.

Year 2: Jayden for completing the handwriting book and for working hard on writing, especially finger spaces.

Year 3: Lachie for thoughtful responses to our class novel and a detailed presentation on an International Poddies Day.

Year 4: Lily for clearly showing and explaining her working out when solving problems in Maths.

Year 5: Aurelia for applying feedback to help extend and improve her work.

Year 6/7: Shiny Stars meet the Governor



Term 4 Week 7

Reception: Clem for his persistence in our reading sessions and never giving up!

Year 1: Martin for readily applying the feedback given in our afternoon feedback sessions to enhance the quality of his work to a very high level!

Year 2: George for taking pride in the presentation of his work and for neat handwriting!

Year 3: James for using feedback to improve work and for developing great enthusiasm for story writing!

Year 4: Cody for regularly attending feedback sessions and using feedback to improve his work!

Year 5: Beau for a concise and engaging kitchen garden presentation!

Year 6/7: Holly for her outstanding work returns and participation in lessons this term!



EVENTS - 2021

Get Together: **3 to 4 December**

EVENTS - 2022

Term 1

Induction Week: Week 1 - **31 January to 4 February**

Camp: Week 10 - **4 April to 8 April**

Term 2

School Experience Week: Week 3 - **16 – 20 May** (NAPLAN)

Term 3

Mini Schools: Week 10 - **26 to 30 September** (PAT)

Term 4

Get Together: Week 8 – **9 to 11 December**

GET TOGETHER ART SHOW

A reminder to get your entries ready for the SOTA Art Show to be held at Get Together. Categories include: painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, and miscellaneous. The Adult section is to be held again also.

GET TOGETHER DISCO THEME

Costume theme is - Real People (past or present)

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.

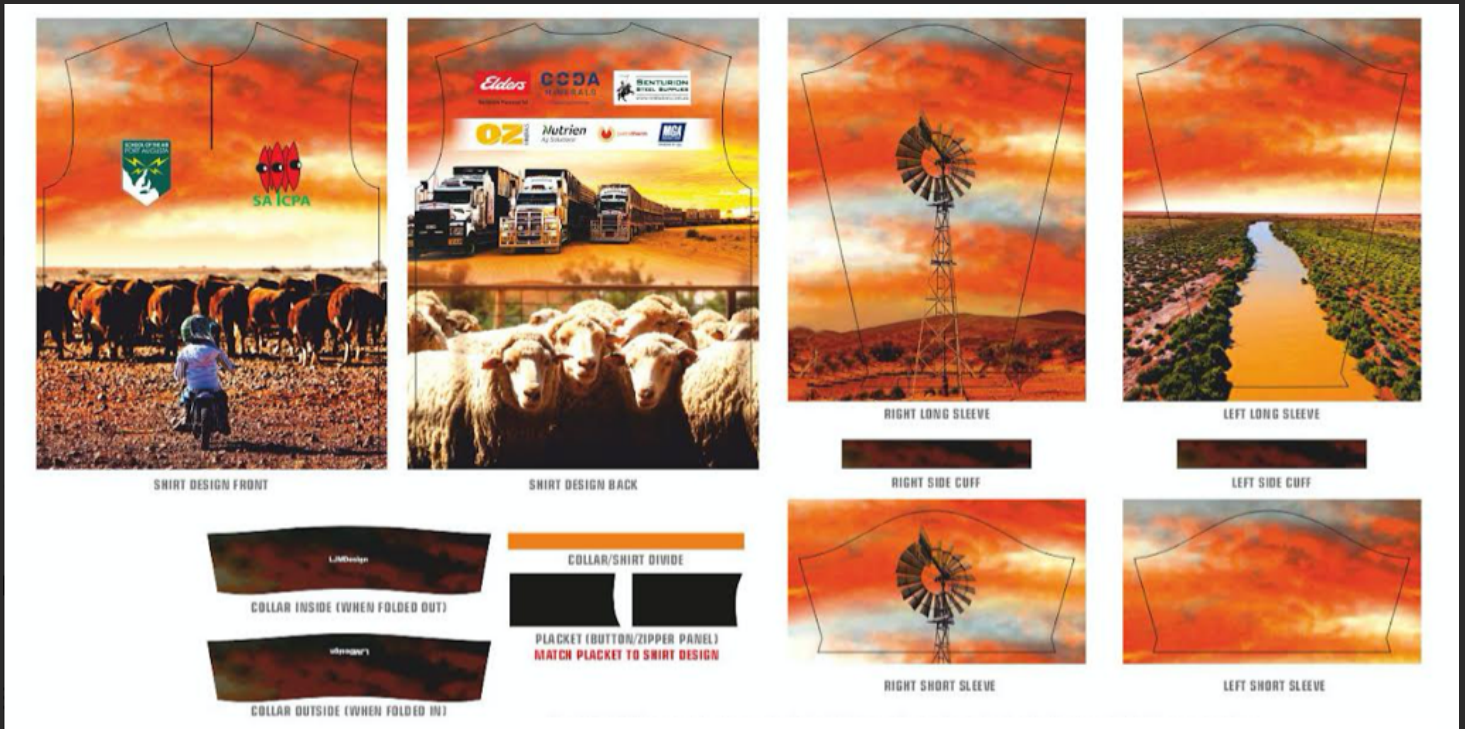
Reminder that Jordan can be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday by contacting 8642 2077

CONTACTING THE LIBRARY/ BORROWING BOOKS

If you need to contact the library or borrow books, please email library@openaccess.edu.au

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