

# SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



February 2022 Term 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS



As we have done so countless times, SOTA community is determined to work through the challenges of CoVID. We missed out on a face-to-face Induction in Week 1, but the desire to connect in person was not diminished. The community is gladly re-working our schedules to catch up in Week 5 in Port Augusta. Although the swiftness and agility might suggest that it's an easy logistical shift, it is not. When the motivation is strong, the logistical challenge is surmountable. SOTA community fully understands that connectedness to school and peers is a critical factor that contributes to student wellbeing and works hard to create opportunities to connect.

Whilst face-to-face events strengthen social connections, they are not the only means to do so. In addition to verbal feedback sessions which enhance learning and connection between teachers and students, we also introduced class assembly, more intentional breakout room opportunities and SOTA Social Space to enable more peer communication and strengthen the connection among students. Together with the symbolic singing of the school song, house teams, the insistence by parents that their children wear school uniforms and supervisors' effort in maintaining school routines, SOTA students are socialised to cultural elements of a 'conventional' school.

Providing students with an enabling academic foundation to engage with the concepts and content in high school is also critically important. SOTA teachers put thoughtful consideration to their planning and teaching of the Australian Curriculum to make the best of the limited contact time with students. Improving student reading is the site improvement goal for the next three years. OAC primary teachers had a full day of professional

development on teaching comprehension by literacy educator, Sheena Cameron. It was a strategies-focused workshop which teachers found helpful.

We welcome Sara Ling to complete SOTA staff this year. Big thanks to Megan for her dedication to Years 2/3 and supporting Sara to take up her responsibilities.

Megan and MK teachers are absolutely delighted to be able to return to the road and visit families. This year, they will be travelling out on Monday, rather than Tuesday to spend more time with students. In support of their earlier departure from SOTA, they will need 2 hours on Tuesday, 2.30 – 4.30pm to join in school meetings.

Our collective effort prepares SOTA students in some way for educational, and cultural routines and expectations of high schools. Importantly, we do so in a way that is warm and supportive. Our new teachers told me recently that they are enjoying their work here. I'm too delighted to be working in a 'good little school'. Thank you, SOTA community. See you next week!

**Best wishes**

**Lai Kuan Lim**

*SOTA Head of Campus*

---

## CATCHUP WEEK: DISCO

Theme: S O T A

Dress up in anything that starts with the letter  
S, O, T or A.

Let your imagination take you to  
outrageously fun places!



## EVENTS

Catch Up Week (SOTA): **28 February to 4 March**

Adelaide Cup Public Holiday: **14 March**

Camp: **4 – 8 April**

Good Friday Public Holiday: **15 April**

Easter Monday Public Holiday: **18 April**

School Holidays: **18 – 29 April**

School Experience Week (Naplan): **16 - 20 May**

Mini Schools: **26 - 30 September**

Get Together: **9 - 11 December**

## 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 on WebEx

CGC: Week 4 (T1) Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb

OPFA: Week 7 (T1) Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March

CGC: Week 8 (T1) Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Welcome back everyone to our 2022 school year. It again has been an interesting start to the year, I was hoping for a no news is good news start but no such luck with our Induction week that we all had been looking forward to not being able to be held in week 1. But on the upside the rain came with some incredible falls around the state; some very welcome but in other spots, it was a bit too much of a good thing. It's great to see the pictures of the country coming alive.

We welcome some new faces around SOTA with both staff, students and govies, I hope you are enjoying your first few weeks of schooling. Looking forward to meeting everyone in person when we get the chance to get together.

A change in venue for school camp this year sees us moving from Barmera to Port Lincoln. We had a great camp here last time in such a beautiful part of SA.

Just a reminder that OPFA meetings are held in week 3 and week 7 at 3:30pm on the Wednesday, all are welcome.

Cheers

Leisa Breeding

OPFA Chair



Hello everyone, welcome to the 2022 school year. My name is Georgy Ewing and I have just taken over from



Trish Ellin as the Manager of REVISE. Big boots to fill, as Trish has done a fantastic job over the past few years.

A little about myself. I retired from full time teaching at the end of 2015, and since then have done relief teaching at my old school, St Pius X School in Adelaide. I'm currently teaching one of our Year Three classes, filling in for four weeks. I still really enjoy the contact with students and staff. That contact is one thing I enjoy most about REVISE. Being able to get out into the outback which I love, and support students in their learning, makes me feel very privileged. We work and support SOTA staff very closely.

What is REVISE? We are a volunteer group of retired (or semi - retired) educators, who can assist SOTA families in the classroom. There may be a need for a short break for shearing, lamb marking or whatever, or you may have some concerns with a student's learning when a fresh pair of eyes can be helpful. We can also support governesses if there are some concerns. We do ask for a financial contribution, this goes to REVISE, not to the teacher.

I can be contacted on my mobile 0408897818; or by email [manager@revise.org.au](mailto:manager@revise.org.au) or [ladygewing@gmail.com.au](mailto:ladygewing@gmail.com.au)

Looking forward to meeting the new families and catching up with those of you I already know. I see on tonight's news there is more rain, and possible storms heading to the north of the state. Hope you all get the right amount of rain, in the right places!

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.

Jordan will return to work on March 10.

## VISIT FROM DAN VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN

Deputy Premier Dan van Holst Pellekaan attended the SOTA assembly on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February.



## 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



## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

The Student Representative Council (SRC) helps support their fellow classmates and be a voice for any student concerns. They also fundraise to support a variety of educational and charity ventures throughout the year.

We had our first meeting last week and the SRC have come up with some great ideas for the year!

Meetings each term will be from 8.30-8.45am on Thursday mornings in Weeks 3, 6 & 9.

Name	Role
Honey-May	Reception Student Rep
Jack	Reception Student Rep
Dan	Year 1 Student Rep
Lisma	Year 1 Student Rep
Bonnie	Year 2 Student Rep
Lawson	Year 2 Student Rep
Eli	Year 3 Student Rep
Lara	Year 3 Student Rep
Lachie	Year 4 Student Rep
Magenta	Year 4 Student Rep
Micah	Year 5 Student Rep
Lucy	Year 5 Student Rep
Ruby	Secretary
Abby	Treasurer
Ryder	Vice-Chairperson
Sam	Chairperson



# HONOUR ROLL 2021

## OAC Academic Prizes

Academic Achievement Award for Certificate III Education Support

- Kayla S.

Personal Achievement Award for Certificate 111 Education Support

- Tegan P.

Academic Achievement Award for Year 7/8 Art: Mixing it Up

- Elke K.

Academic Achievement Award for Year 7/8 Design and Technology: Food and Fashion

- Elke K.

Personal Achievement Award for Year 7/8 Art: Pattern and Art

- Logan W.

Personal Achievement Award for Year 8: Central Studies – STEAM

- Todd F.

## I M Kenworthy Scholarship for 2021

- Elke K.

## The Honourable Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP Parliamentary Medal 2021

- Elke K.
- Todd F.

## Port August Council Student Recognition Award 2021

- Abby S.

## Rowan Ramsey MP School Community Award

- Michael Kerin





## Premier's Reading Challenge

### Certificate recipients

- Lisma V.
- Clem K.
- Daniel B.
- Asher B.

### Bronze Medal Recipients

- Winsome M.
- Tilly W.
- Lawson R.
- Connor B.
- Martin B.
- Lara B.
- Cody B.

### Silver Medal Recipients

- PJ V.
- George W.
- Jayden B.
- Elijah R.

### Gold Medal Recipients

- Magenta W.
- Lachie K.
- James R.
- Mareike B.
- Micah B.
- Nelson W.
- Samuel M.

### Champion Medal Recipients

- Stella F.
- Jacob K.
- Lucy W.
- Katie W.
- Abby S.

### Legend Medal Recipients

- Ruby W.
- Aurelia R.
- Ryder R.

### Hall of Fame Recipients

- Holly W.
- Todd F.

### Hall of Fame – READER FOR LIFE recipient

- Elke K.

### Special recognition of 3 students who read the highest number of books:

- Asher B.
- Connor B.
- Martin B.

## MK'S HOME VISITS

It was great to get back in the Landcruiser and hit the road again.....wake up MK you are dreaming. So what have I done here at SOTA over the past four weeks you ask? The list includes attending meetings and assemblies, carrying out SSO duties with the phone, photocopier, laminator etc. Most enjoyable has been taking some Webex sessions for Friday's Social time, taking Dione's Student Support lessons for two weeks, taking TRT lessons as needed and generally been available to support other staff. I have also spent considerable time planning our Week 10 camp which was shifted to North Shields from Barmera early in the term. Luckily I have the contacts made when planning the 2019 camp down there so a number of people were easy to contact and deal with. I also took the opportunity to get the 2022 Yearbook up and running and have brought it up to date with eight parts of it completed including a very brief Induction Week, the rain/flood event and the Adelaide Crows event. Hopefully I am able to hit the road again soon and see for myself the wonderful transformation that a good rain brings to our families.

### 2021 YEARBOOK

The 2021 Yearbook is now available for those who ordered it last term. There are also a few extra copies if anyone else wants a copy. Please contact SOTA if you want to order one (or more).



### TEAM CAPTAINS

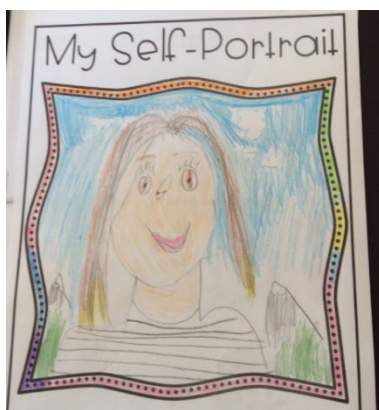
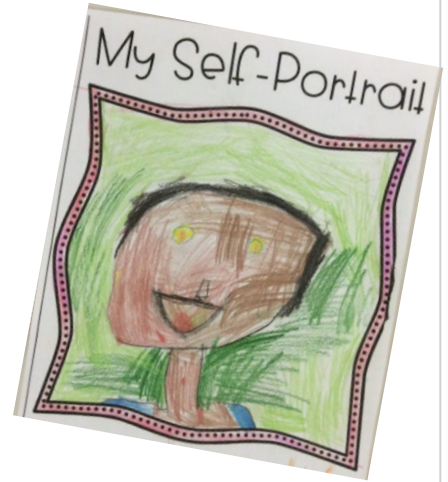
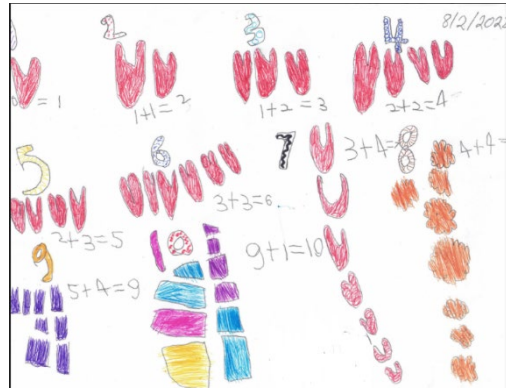
Congratulations to the following senior students who will be leading their teams this year:

**Red Eagles – Aurelia, Ryder, Ruby and Sam,**

**Blue Dingoes - Jacob and Holly**

**Yellow Brumbies – Abby, Cody, and Stella**

# MISS EMMA'S RECEPTION/1



### Count and Colour

Read the number and colour the correct amount of objects in each row.

7	
9	
10	
8	
6	

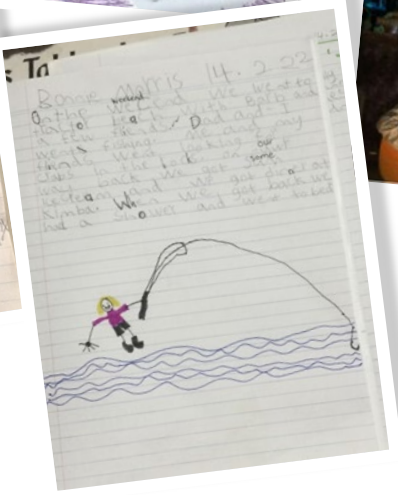
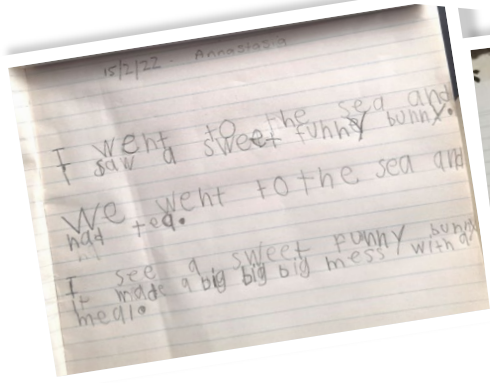
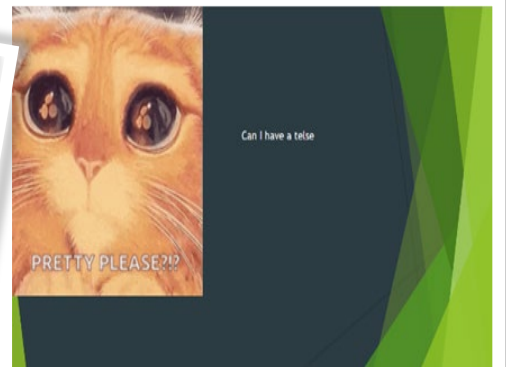
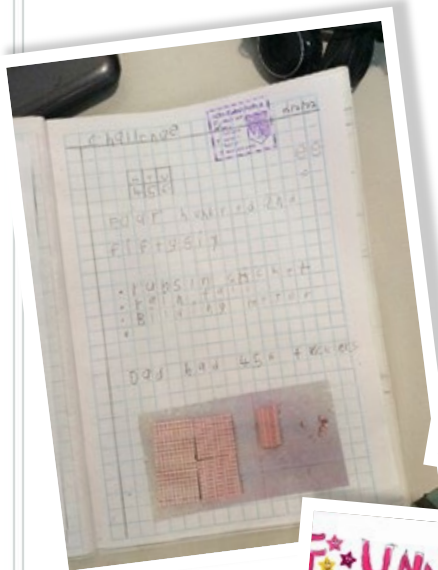
In Reception/ Year One we have been practising our weekly sounds. Students have been using their sound knowledge to help them write out words. In Maths, students have been practising their counting. We are counting from 0-20 and are now learning to count to 100. Miss Emma has learnt so much about the Reception and Year One class from their student surveys and All About Me activities.





# MISS MEGAN'S 2/3

Each member of this year's 2/3 class has 'hit the ground running'! The students are applying themselves to the learning, putting in an extraordinary effort to produce their work to a high standard, and there is so much enthusiasm 'in the room'. Each student is building new knowledge and consolidating what they have learnt before. It is a very exciting beginning for the class of 2022! Awesome work 2/3 class. Keep up the good work.





# MISS TENNESSEE'S AND MS C'S YEAR 4/5

This term in Maths we started the year by exploring place value, number lines and rounding. We are currently practising our addition and subtraction strategies to effectively solve various problems.

In History, the year 5 students have been busy timelining the changes of the Australian colonies and exploring why they were expanding. The focus in Science has been exploring man-made and natural light sources, as well as experimenting with shadows.

This term in English, we have split our learning into three learning areas of Spelling, Reading and Writing. In Spelling our focus has been on the sounds that letters and their combinations make. While in Reading and Writing we are looking at persuasive texts and how authors/advertisement try and persuade us.

Year 4s in HASS are focusing on Australia's History between the 1400 to mid 1800 while recognising and deepening their understanding of the importance of Country/Place to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. In Science, Year 4s are acting like scientists and have begun to explore the topic of forces.

**WANTED NUMBER RIDDLES**

**Wanted number is a 3 digit**

- The wanted number is even
- The hundreds digit is half of thousand
- The tens digit is less than 7 and bigger than 5.
- The unit column is two more than 0

**Wanted number is a 4 digit**

- The number is smaller than 4000 and bigger than 3000
- The hundreds digit is an odd number between 3 and 7
- The thousand digit is 3 less than 6
- The tens digit is 4 more than 0
- The ones digit is a number, that if you divide 25 by this number your answer will be 25.

**Wanted number is a 5 digit**

- All digits are odd
- No 2 digits are the same
- The digit in the tens place is the number of fingers on one hand
- The number in the ones place is the last digit before it moves to the tens column
- The hundreds digit is one more than 0
- The thousand digit is more than 0 but less than 7
- The ten thousands digit is 3 less than ten

- **What is History?**  
History is something of someones past
- **How does understanding these concepts help us better understand history**  
We can know peoples past and understand their history better
- **Share a significant event, place or person to you**  
Nilpinna Station is significant to me because it's where I live



**Wanted 1**

- It has 6 digits
- The ten thousand is plus one to the hundred thousand digit
- The hundred thousand starts the count
- The thousand digit is 5-2
- The hundred is the same as the first instance
- The ten is 1 less than the ones
- The ones is 10-3

**Wanted 2**

- The hundred thousand is an odd number between 5 and 9
- The ten thousand is +1
- The thousand is divided by 4
- The hundred is a number we have said that is less than 7 and more than 3
- The ten is 14
- The one is 5

**Wanted 3**

- It has 7 digits
- The million starts us off counting
- The hundred thousand is the first even that isn't 0
- The ten thousand is the biggest digit
- The thousand is the odd number before the ten thousand digit
- The hundred is not the next but the one after the hundred thousand digit
- The ten is the even number after the hundred digit
- The one is the ten -3

Put the word into your own definition

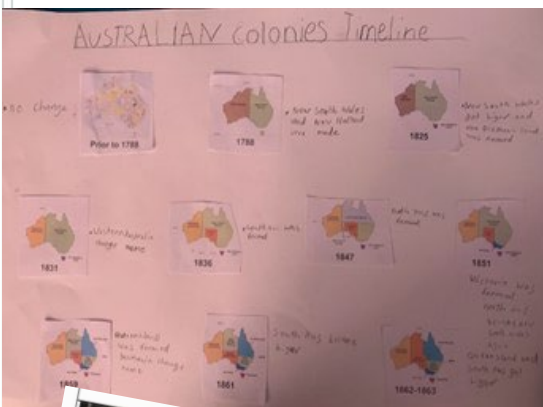
treating something with a lot of hate

What are some words that have a similar meaning?

hatefull disgust mistreat

Put the word into your own definition

The shelter was abhorrent to a dog so we took him home



Natural	Manmade
<p>The sun has rays.</p>	<p>Because you need to light them to make light.</p>
<p>The flames make the light</p>	<p>You need to put in a battery and press the button for the torch to turn on.</p>

Put the word into your own definition

A group of people who own a large business e.g. Petco

What are some words that have a similar meaning?

company, association, body, group, confederation

**Organization**

Put the word into your own definition

feeling anxious or worried about something

What are some words that have a similar meaning?

disquiet, anxiety, worry, apprehension

**Concerned**

"Ali has been gone a long time. I'm getting concerned"

Put the word into your own definition

"LUKE, I AM YOUR MOTHER."

Snickers (still image)

"Luke, I am your mother."  
-Darth Vader

You're not your mother's helper when you're hungry

Your thoughts:

It is a bad ad because it's just a man laughing. It made me feel confused because it doesn't show why he is laughing, if I was on the train and this guy started laughing I would be like why is he laughing.

I think that this is weird because I have never watched Star Wars and I don't get it, it doesn't make me want to go and buy a Snickers.

Put the word into your own definition

lit + er is messy

What are some words that have a similar meaning?

messy, messy

Put the word into your own definition

ther was litter

What are some words that have a similar meaning?

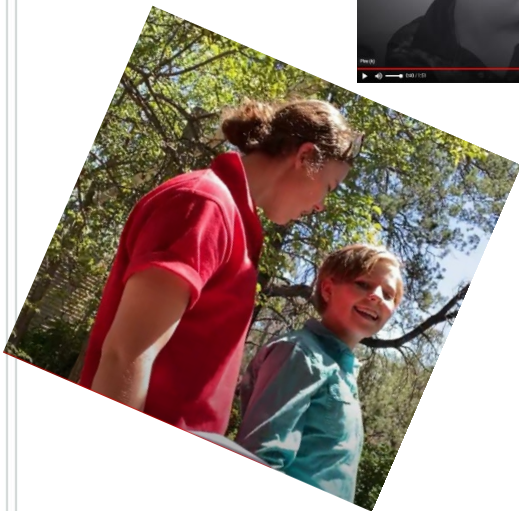
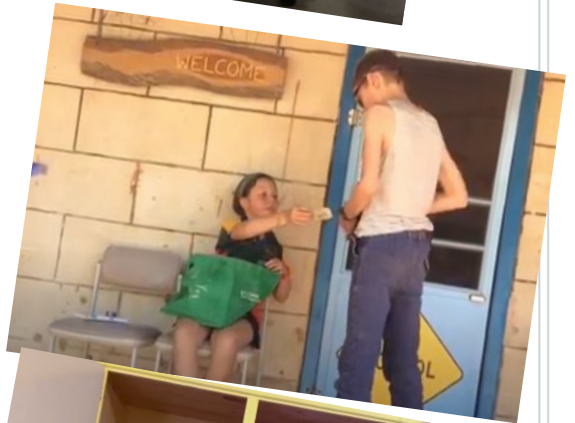
mess, litter, litter



## MS MEL'S YEAR 5/6

The Year 6 class have had a flying start to the year!

We have been ironing out our timetable, getting our heads around the new spelling program and are using break out rooms on Webex to work collaboratively. There have been some excellent drama skits uploaded this term which shows off the brilliant improvisation skills of the class (and their supervisors and siblings). In Science we have also made Thaumatrope to explore potential and kinetic energy (as demonstrated by Sam).





## Term 1 Week 2

- Miss Emma:* Honey-May for participating in all classes and making such an enthusiastic start to her schooling.
- Miss Megan:* Shaquille for his enthusiasm during lessons and for applying himself during follow up activities, in particular his spelling task.
- Ms C:* Nelson for participating in lessons and persisting with challenging words when spelling.
- Miss Tennessee:* Lucy for completing all parts of her tasks to a high standard.
- Ms Mel:* Beau for overcoming challenges to have a great start to the year.
- 

## RED BAGS

Can any excess red (library) bags be returned to SOTA or Marden.

---

## SCHOOL ROOM POSTERS

Please send through your schoolroom posters for our display

---



## REPORTING FROM THE KI CLASSROOM

9pm on Boxing Day was wet and windy as we loaded up the bus to head over to Kangaroo Island. The weather certainly added to the excitement of the ride! We parked the bus up amongst the trees where koalas grunt in the evening and early morning, possums are a nuisance and there's animal galore on the night roads: kangaroos, wallabies, betongs, possums, koalas and many more.

We had a few weeks before school started, and there was plenty to keep us busy. We loved to boogie board at Vivonne Bay, and even had a go at surfing! Snorkling with Connor and Asher at Stokes Bay was definitely one of our favorites! We climbed "Prospect Hill" (406 steps to the top!) and swam the wave with a pod of dolphins at Pennington Bay. We fished for squids off the jetty, we fished off the beach too. We went raking for crabs and caught marron in the creeks. We went to work with Dad in the shearing shed which kept us all busy for 3 weeks. We drove through the National Parks, visited the seals at Admirals Arch and Remarkable Rocks. We saw the recovery of the bush from the January 2020 fires and the remnants of the burnt out trees.

We were excited when school started. Katie and Tilly do one online lesson every morning with OAC (+ 1 Japanese and library lesson per week) and Holly has 10 Central Studies lessons scattered around the week. One uses the bus and two are in the schoolroom setup in the trailer. We are loving catching up with our friends and teachers at SOTA. 😊

