

SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



Feb 2023 Term 1

Message from the Head of Campus

Welcome to the first issue of SOTA Speak in 2023! We are delighted to share the latest news and updates from our school with you.

Thank you all for making the long journey to Port Augusta for induction. SOTA places a strong emphasis on community and connection. Our school is a tight-knit community, and we work hard to ensure that all students feel included and valued. We appreciate families making the effort to attend face-to-face events which helps to strengthen the community bond.

Following a wonderful week together, my colleagues and I are feeling optimistic about 2023. Teachers got to know their students personally and established a positive bond. Supervisors learnt how to navigate the learning platforms and were introduced to ways to establish a positive learning environment in their schoolrooms. We hope our new families are feeling more comfortable, confident, and connected to SOTA community.

As we move to online learning this week, my colleagues and I understand that remote learning can be challenging for students and supervisors, and we are dedicated to providing the support



and resources needed to ensure success. Our teachers are available to answer questions and Jordan is always happy to troubleshoot any technological issues. Our itinerant teacher, Megan is also getting ready for her first trip out to support a new family.

As the school year progresses, we encourage you to stay informed about our school by reading *SOTA Speak* and all email communication from us. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff.

Verbal feedback sessions will commence this week while learning support will commence in week 3. Students can look forward to chatting with their friends in the Social Space for a hearty Galah Session as of this Friday at 2.30pm.

If your child is unable to attend school, please advise their teachers prior to lesson. As well, discuss with their teachers the work that needs to be completed.

Thank you for choosing Port Augusta School of the Air for your child's education. We are honoured to have the opportunity to serve your family and are committed to providing the best possible education to your child.

Best wishes
Lai Kuan Lim



SOTA Staff Contacts

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Shelby Clayton	Learning Support	Shelby.Clayton780@schools.sa.edu.au	8309 3576

Face to Face Event Dates 2023

School Experience Week/NAPLAN (Woomera): **Term 1- Week 8** (20-24 March)

PLEASE BOOK ACCOMMODATION AT WOOMERA

CAMP ([El Shaddai](#), Wellington): **Term 2 - Week 10**
(3-7 July)

Mini Schools/PAT: **Term 3 - Week 10**
(25-29 September)

Get Together: **Term 4 - Friday & Saturday Week 8**
(8-9 December)

SOTA Whole School Photo 2023



Induction Week 2023



Itinerant Teacher

Megan Thoms

Hello again to all the students, supervisors, and families I have met and worked with over the past two years. Once again, in 2023, I am responsible for the HPE program for the Reception to Year 4 classes. Also, for the time being (until we are joined by another Itinerant teacher), I will organize the lessons for the Years 5 and Year 6 students. Miss Mel has kindly offered to help out with Year 7.

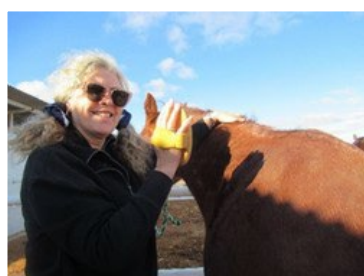
In Term 1, we will begin with one of the core areas for learning in the Health curriculum, the **'Growing up Strong'** theme, and from Week 6, we will introduce tennis for PE, **'Learning through Movement'** curriculum strand.

For those of you who have just joined SOTA, welcome. I am one of the Itinerant teachers and I am an easy going vegetarian, an experienced educator and I have been teaching in South Australia for over 11 years. I am both an Early Childhood and a Primary trained teacher.

I love visiting and supporting our students with all their studies and I know how lucky I am to spend some time with our families, when I visit.

I have been in this Itinerant teaching role for 2 years and I hope for many more. I am proud to be a member of the SOTA team and I know it is a privileged role. My work is rewarding and fun and I strive to promote every aspect of the children's' education, and to have some fun together when I make an Itinerant visit.

Kind Regards,
Megan





Toner cartridges

If you require toner cartridges for your printer, please send an email to jordan.noblebush314@schools.sa.edu.au

Student Free Days 2023

March 10th

June 13th

August 7th



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

Contacting the library/ borrowing books

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

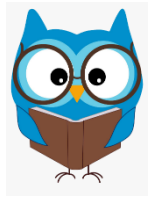
Reception – Emma O’Shaughnessy

Term 1 Overview

Welcome to my 2023 Reception Students! It is a pleasure to welcome you all to SOTA this year. I am so excited for you to start your education journey. This year will be a fantastic adventure as we learn and grow together.

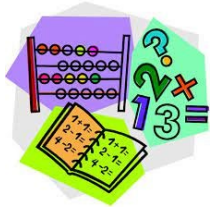
English

In English this term we will be using Sounds-Write as our phonics program to support students with their reading and spelling. They will be supported to create short spoken and written texts that report information or imaginative ideas. Students will have opportunities to retell stories, articulate ideas and experiment with new vocabulary.



As part of their English work students will be using Reading Doctor and Reading Eggs as resources to strengthen their reading skills.

Mathematics



Students will develop confidence in counting, writing and modelling numbers. They will be introduced to the concepts of quantity and part-part-whole. Students will create and describe patterns and continue existing patterns. We will be using the Oxford Maths workbooks as a resource for this unit.

The Arts: Drama

Using picture books by familiar authors and illustrators, students will be introduced to the concepts of drama.

Students will learn to use voice, facial expression, movement and space in their dramatic action and improvisation.



Science (Biological):

It’s a Feature! Students will identify the 5 senses and understand how these provide us with information about the world around us. Students will explore external features of a variety of animals and plants. They will develop an understanding of Aboriginal Peoples’ knowledge of external features of animals.

CPC:

Students will be learning about ‘The right to be safe’ and ‘Relationships’

I look forward to our learning journey this year!

Thanks,
Emma



Miss



Year 1/2 – Jo Byrne

Term 1 Overview

Hi everyone and welcome to 2023 at SOTA!

My name is Miss Jo and I am lucky enough to be the Year 1/2 teacher here at SOTA this year. I have some familiarity with the school as I started out as an Itinerant Teacher here 10 years ago and have since taught at Marion Primary school, with a year on exchange in Canada. However, there is still much to learn and many changes since then!

About me: I love all things to do with the ocean- kayaking, surfing, snorkelling and swimming as well as most outdoor activities and traveling. I recently returned from Antarctica where I was able to see whales, seals, penguins and icebergs galore!

I'm looking forward to working with all of you and being part of your learning journey this year. 😊

English-

Oral Language- Students will participate in Sharing (Morning Talks) on different topics throughout the term.

Phonics- Students will be continuing to use the phonics based program 'Sounds Write' to support them in reading and spelling.

Reading and Viewing- Students will listen to, read, and respond to a variety of texts through the use of different books/ texts throughout the term.

Comprehension- Throughout the term we will be focusing on different comprehension strategies.

Handwriting- Students will complete a handwriting lesson each week. This lesson will focus on correct posture, grip, formation and letter size and shape.

Writing- This term we will have a focus on Poetry where students will be exposed to a range of different poems and have the opportunity to write some of their own!



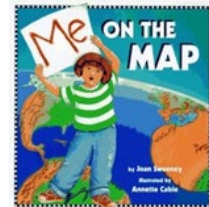


Maths – Students will be consolidating their number skills- focusing on number sequences, recognising/modelling and ordering numbers as well as partitioning and describing number patterns. We will also be using ‘Think Mentals’ workbooks to supplement the set tasks and build up rapid recall of number facts/ topics covered.



Science (Weeks 2-6)- This term we will be covering Biological Sciences. The focus will be on exploring and identifying the basic needs of humans, animals and plants. Students will be involved in making predictions, observing and then analysing and comparing results.

Geography (Weeks 7-11) In the second half of the term students will pose questions about, and learn and explore familiar and unfamiliar places.



Child Protection Curriculum - The focus topics this term in CPC will be ‘The Right to be safe’ and ‘Relationships.’ In the first half of the term, we will be learning about feelings, being safe, warning signs and risk taking. In the second half of the term the focus will be rights and responsibilities, power in relationships as well as trust networks.

Health and PE This term in Health the focus topic will be ‘Growing up strong’. In PE the focus will be learning through movement with a focus on ball skills/tennis.



Looking forward to a great term! Cheers, Miss Jo. 😊

Year 3 / 4 – Rebecca Morley

Term 1 Overview

Dear students and families,

Welcome to 2023 and the start of a new school year!

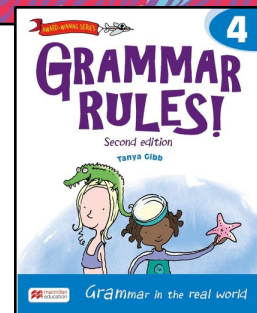
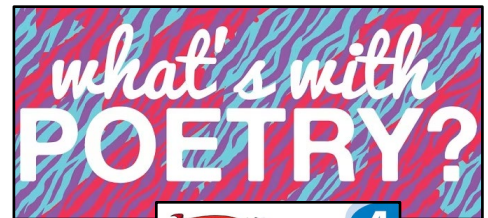
I hope you all had a wonderful break and are now feeling refreshed and ready to go. We have a very interesting term ahead of us and I'm looking forward to sharing new experiences with all of you as we progress through our learning journey.

English

This term in English students will begin by revisiting poetry. We will be exploring a range of poems to determine how structural features and poetic devices have been used to create humour. Students will perform and evaluate poems, using evidence from their texts to support their personal viewpoints on how the poem succeeds in entertaining its audience.

In the second half of the term, students will be examining narratives, focusing on how language features and techniques are used to develop characters and plots. Students will analyse mentor texts to build understanding of the authors' writing decisions and apply this in their own writing.

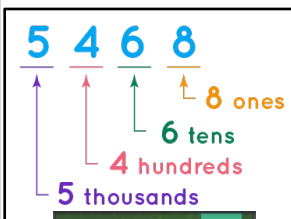
Throughout the term students will continue to develop their grammar and spelling skills using some of our resources, Grammar Rules and Soundwaves.



Mathematics

In Mathematics we will be examining the area of number. Students will continue to develop their understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction, before beginning to learn about multiplication and division. We will learn and practise a range of strategies before applying them to problem-solving challenges and real-life contexts.

Later in the term students will apply these skills in financial problems, further developing their understanding of how to represent money and calculate change. Students will also be continuing with the Think Mental resource to support their mathematical development with daily practice.





Science

This term, students will be reviewing and further developing their understanding of forces. We will be revisiting push and pull, before introducing friction, gravity, and magnetism. Students will learn to group forces as contact forces and non-contact forces, conduct investigations about the effect of forces, and describe how contact and non-contact forces affect interactions between objects.



HASS

In HASS students will be learning about European settlement of Australia. We will be learning about how conditions in Britain led to the establishment of Australian colonies and who was sent there, how the First Fleet traveled to Australia and the conditions of the journey, before investigating what life was like when they arrived.



The Arts

This term we will be focusing on the Arts strand: Drama. Students will be introduced to drama during Induction week where they will participate in a reader's theatre performance as a class.

In the first half of Term 1 our class will be developing performance skills, exploring how body language and voice is used to convey meaning and expression. In the second half of the term, students will examine how these skills are applied in example dance and drama performances, comparing how different social and cultural contexts affect the Arts.

CPC

This term CPC will be run by Miss Emma and will focus on 'The right to be safe' and 'Relationships'.

Year 5/6 – Navneet Kaur

Term 1 Overview

Hello everyone, I'm pleased to welcome you all to the start of a new year at SOTA.

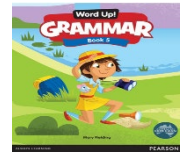
I'm very excited to join the SOTA team and looking forward to a great year with my 5/6 students, supervisors and families. Let's have a look at what we are doing for Term 1 2023:

English:



Students will listen to and read a range of short stories by different authors. They investigate and compare similarities and differences in the ways authors use text structure, language features, and strategies to create humorous effects. Students will apply the learnt strategies to come up with a story of their own.

Students will follow our comprehension, grammar and spelling resources to complete weekly units which will develop their skills in these areas.



Maths:



In Maths, students will recognise the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers. They will describe the use of integers in everyday contexts. They will solve problems involving all four operations with whole numbers.

Later in term, students will be exposed to the different ways to represent fractions and will model equivalent fractions. They will experience different situations that involve fractions. Students will solve problems with like or related denominators.

HASS: History



This term, students will explore the factors that led to federation and the different attitudes towards it and citizenship at the time, both from a South Australian perspective and a national perspective. By investigating people's experiences of democracy and citizenship over time, students come to understand the significance of events, ideas and people's contributions that influenced the development of

Australia's system of government.



Science:

In science, students will identify the different types of energy and describe how they can be transformed from one form to another. They will analyse how energy is transformed and transferred to generate electricity. They will explore how people from different cultures use sustainable sources of energy. Students will develop a clear understanding of renewable and non-renewable energy.



CPC

In CPC, this term students will be learning about how to identify and respond to warning signs and how to remain calm in an unsafe situation. They will learn to recognise, assess and respond to risk situations.



The Arts

This term we will be exploring the elements of drama with the amazing Ms. Mel. We will be developing skills and techniques in voice and movements to create different characters, moods and atmospheres. Students will rehearse and perform scripted drama plays for an audience.



Let's begin the 2023 learning journey!

Best wishes,

Miss Kaur

Year 6/7 – Mel Clark

Term 1 Overview

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready to get back into the new school year.

English

This term in English students will gain an understanding of how rhetorical devices, text structures and language features combine in media texts to influence audiences. We will observe and interpret a range of media texts including online news articles, advertisements and persuasive speeches, establishing point of view, audience and credibility through evaluating the rhetorical literary devices, text structures and language features used. Students will continue to work on developing their grammar skills using one of our new resources, the Pearson Grammar book. In conjunction with this grammar program students will continue to practice their spelling with Soundwaves.



Mathematics

This term in Mathematics we will begin by investigating large numbers using index notation, defining and comparing prime and composite numbers, before moving on to square numbers, integers and BEDMAS. In the second half of the term, we will look at applying the skills and knowledge learnt in the previous weeks to real world scenarios.

History

In History we will develop an understanding and appreciation of how and why people study the ancient past. Students will examine the methods historians use to develop an understanding of the ancient world. We will take an in depth look at Ancient Egypt and answer inquiry questions such as, how did the geography of Egypt influence the development of the Egyptian civilisation and what were the features and core beliefs of Ancient Egyptian society?





Science

This term in Science we will be exploring the effects of unbalanced forces, including Earth's gravity, on motion. We will consider how South Australia's new space agency is researching advances in space observation, communication and transport. Students will investigate forces, and how they can change the motion of an object and appreciate the role of forces in their everyday lives and how scientists use this knowledge in their occupation.



CPC

This term in CPC (Child Protection Curriculum) our focus area is, ***the right to be safe***. We will be learning about our warning signs as well as risk-taking and emergencies. Middle Years students also begin to develop their understanding and awareness of psychological pressure and manipulation in their teenage years and develop strategies to manage this pressure when it arises.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions 😊

Kind regards,
Mel Clark

Introducing SOTA's Quiz Master: Miss Emma



Please prepare your quiz in Kahoot format and email it to:

Emma.OShaughnessy852@schools.sa.edu.au