



SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter

June 2021 Term 2

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS



HELLO EVERYONE

As this will be my final message for 'SOTA Speak', I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the SOTA community for welcoming me in and supporting me throughout my 3 month term. I have been lucky enough to participate in the camp to Port Hughes and School Experience Week, where the highlight for me is always the chance to spend time with the students and catch up with parents.

School Experience week was a valuable time for teachers and students to spend together. The mix of class time and excursions meant for a very busy week of learning. The trip to Sundrop Farm to see how they grow all those tomatoes on such a large scale was amazing and showcased sustainable living; an important part of our Australian Curriculum learning. As an animal lover, I found the close up encounters with the variety of animals from 'Animals Anonymous' very exciting and gauging from the squeals of enthusiasm in the room, I wasn't the only one. The interest shown by students during the scat and author talks was also encouraging to see as they answered some difficult questions and asked lots of relevant questions.

A very special part of my time at SOTA has been the opportunity to work collaboratively with staff

on the teaching and learning improvement cycle. Teaching is an incredibly complex craft and by rigorously focusing on practice, teachers can continue to develop in ways that will improve outcomes for their students. We have spent time on, and will continue to discuss over the last few weeks of this term, ways to improve our pedagogy, developing a consistent approach to lesson structure, and how to best use the online time.

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience a very short snapshot of SOTA life and appreciate the passion and hard work of parents and supervisors in ensuring the best learning environment for students is provided for. Finally, I would like to thank the wonderfully dedicated SOTA teachers and support staff for everything they do and for being so welcoming and accepting of my leadership. I will miss you all!

Nicole Humphries
SOTA Head of Campus

EVENTS

Term 2 Ends: **2 July**

NAIDOC Week: **5-12 July**

Term 3 Starts: **19 July**

Science Week: **14-22 August**

Book Week: **21-27 August**

Student Free Day: **10 September**

Mini Schools: **20-24 September**

Get Together: **3 – 5 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

OPFA: Week 3 (T3) Wednesday 4th August (WebEx)

CGC: Week 4 (T2) Wednesday 11th August (WebEx)

Can it really be nearly half way through the year! This year has flown along and we are rolling towards term 3. Great news to hear that Lai Kuan is back in the country and will be back in term 3. However, we will be sad to see Nicole leave as she has done an exceptional job stepping in at short notice for term 2 and we really appreciate that as a campus and have enjoyed her involvement with us. A massive thank you Nicole.

Mini schools have hit a bump with accommodation and meal availability. A number of options are being explored. Ideas are different location, different week. As more details become available, we can see what we can do.

SEW was a great success with the kids getting some great trips out and about, especially a trip to Sun Drop Farm. Everyone went home loaded with tomatoes.

Just a quick reminder that any emails for teachers please be sent after 2pm when they have completed their lessons. It's important to respect this as their mornings are very full and need to be focused on lessons. If it is related to a task in the lesson then of course it can be in the morning so the teachers are there to help so the task can be completed. Other than that, it needs to be an afternoon email. That's the best time available to resolve any issues.

Cheers

Leisa – Chair OPFA

Thank you to all those that attended SEW and to all the teachers for the organisation of the week. I didn't attend but I have heard amazing feedback about how wonderful it was and that Sundrop farm and the animals were a highlight. Our next face to face will be mini school so please keep an ear out for info on that as we work out what, when, how and where this will take place. We need the Australian Defense Force on our side, so we don't want to get in the way at Woomera!

Thanks to the teachers for conducting 'ring arounds' to the families to keep in touch and check in on how school and students are progressing. Make sure you give feedback if you have concerns or would like to commend your teacher on the great job they are doing with our kids.

Cheers

Petie-SOTA CGC

Mustering ready at Nilpinna Station





DISTANCE EDUCATION SUPERVISORS



DES GOVERNESS

Wow! How quickly is this term flying by!

During school experience week we were able to hand out the sports packs to the attending families. We hope everyone is enjoying their resources and will continue to get great use and value out of them. The discus has now also been posted to those families that were waiting for them.

We also still have some fundraisers left over from previous years which include: DES caps, stubby holders and, card packs.

Prices Include:

- Caps \$25
- Stubby Holders \$10
- Card Packs \$5

DES GOVERNESS TRUCKER CAPS

\$25



Low Profile and High Profile available

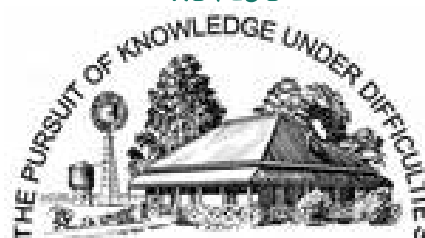
Payments can be made by direct deposit to:

ACCOUNT NAME: Open Access College Council
 BSB: 105 069
 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 278824640
 DESCRIPTION: Name, DES Cap/s

Email Receipt to:

kristy.harding435@schools.sa.edu.au and
finance.matters@openaccess.edu.au

REVISE



REVISE has had teachers at Cooper Creek and Holowilena. As I write this, Adelaide is experiencing a good dose of rain and it's very cold. I hope the rain stretches to your place. If you would like a REVISE visit, please contact me tellin44@bigpond.com or by phone 0437168796.

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 to help students progress through the tables

2021 YEARBOOK COVER COMPETITION

Students in Years 5-7 are invited to submit photos they have taken for consideration for the front and back covers of the 2021 Yearbook. You may send in as many photos you like with as many themes as you like. Send to MK at michael.kerin202@schools.sa.edu.au

MK'S HOME VISITS

Hi all

Week 4 saw me return to The Twins for the second time this year. Ryder, Eli and Lawson were my targets but I was pleasantly surprised to find Hayden at home also. Lots of sports were played including golf, netball, four square and soccer. Heaps of card and board games were also played around the kitchen table. I don't think I had a single victory over my time there.

Week 5 took me back to Sturt Vale to visit Alex and to Burra to visit Abby. A little bit of rain at Sturt Vale and a lunar eclipse whilst in Burra overnight Wednesday were two interesting events. I also took the chance to catch up with ex-SOTA students Jessica and Sarah in Burra but missed catching up with Shae and Harry who were out at the time.

Week 6 led me to my second visit to Commonwealth Hill to check in with Asher and Connor. Much of our spare time was spent in the Cubby House Café where you could get almost any food or drink you desired.

Week 7 took me back to Ruby and Nelson at Arcoona for the first time since February 2020. It is a really busy place with station people and very hopeful mining companies.





MR ERIC'S HOME VISITS

Hi All

Week 4

This was my longest drive as I went to visit PJ and Lisma.

Tech toys were a hit with PJ and Lisma trying out most of the robotic toys with the Tech kit.

Monopoly was the game of choice with a clear winner at the end.

PJ showed off his golfing abilities and Lisma demonstrated her Racket skill.

Week 7

Mareike and Martin made the drive into SOTA where once again the studio was turned into a classroom. Our week ended up in the library at Marden.

A game of chess was played outside with coaching for both players.

After school finished, Mareike and Martin were treated to a fun filled weekend.



MISS MEGAN'S HOME VISITS

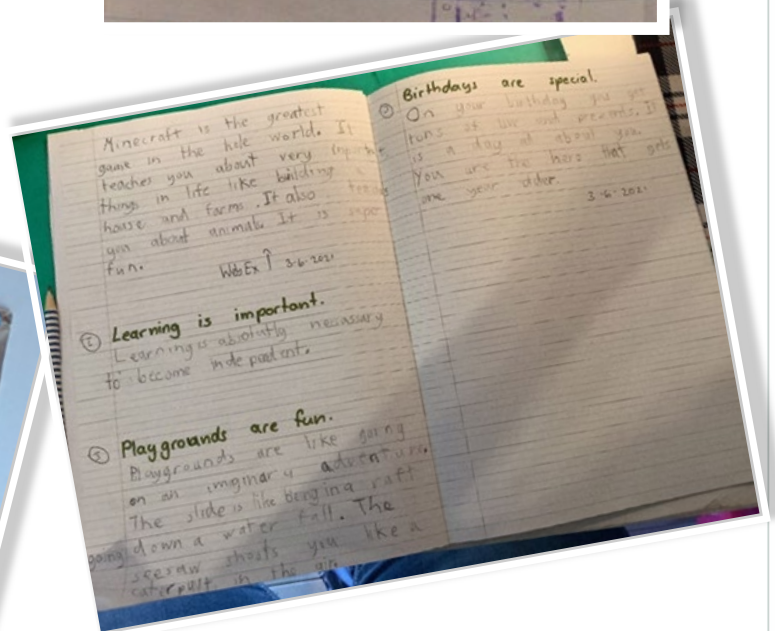
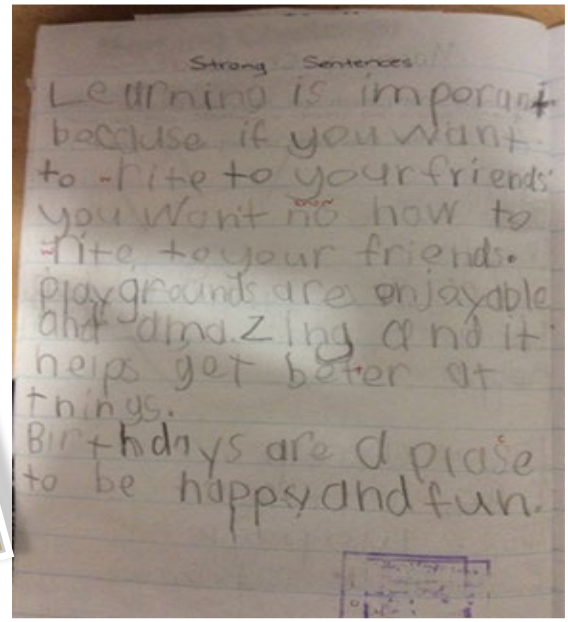
A picture says a thousand words!

As you can see, I have been having fun and sharing a lot of amazing experiences and learning while I have been visiting the families in Nilpinna, The Peake, Wilgena and Thurlga Stations. Thankyou everyone,

Miss Megan



MR CLAYTON'S RECEPTION & YEAR 1



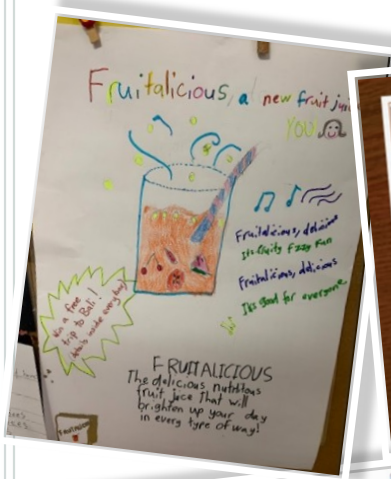
This term the receptions have been working extremely hard with developing their recognition of single letter sounds. The year 1 students have also been working super hard to develop their understanding of persuasive texts.



MISS TENNESSEE'S YEAR 4 & 5

This term the Year 4 class have been learning about what changes the Earth's surface. We have looked at natural reasons, human impact and how rocks and fossils can provide us with information. We have been busy learning how to create persuasive advertisements using a range of techniques. In Maths we have been learning strategies to solve multiplication and division and how to find equivalent fractions.

The Year 5 class have been busy learning about the different states of matter and their properties. We have conducted many experiments to explore the different properties and how the properties can change. We have also been creating persuasive articles. In Maths we have been learning about division strategies, adding and subtracting fractions and writing, making and using decimals.



Fraction	Picture Representation
$\frac{1}{5}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 5 equal parts, with 1 part shaded]
$\frac{9}{10}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 10 equal parts, with 9 parts shaded]
$\frac{2}{3}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 3 equal parts, with 2 parts shaded]
$\frac{10}{20}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 20 equal parts, with 10 parts shaded]
$\frac{1}{2}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 2 equal parts, with 1 part shaded]
$\frac{3}{4}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 4 equal parts, with 3 parts shaded]
$\frac{5}{6}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 6 equal parts, with 5 parts shaded]
$\frac{10}{10}$	[Hand-drawn circle divided into 10 equal parts, with all 10 parts shaded]



RESULTS

- IT WAS A SURPRISE TO ME THAT THE BBQ SAUCE WAS THE SLOWEST!
- A LARGER AMOUNT OF THE CONDIMENTS MAY AFFECT THE SPEED AS THEY WOULD BE HEAVIER. I THINK THE AGE OF THE BBQ SAUCE MAY HAVE AFFECTED THE SPEED. WHEN IT GETS OLD IT GOES THICKER.
- NEXT TIME I WILL MAKE SURE I MEASURE



The Big Picture - looking at levels of understanding

Higher Order Thinking

Creating new matter

Choose two of the states of matter to combine to form a new substance.

Solid + Gas

Give it a name, describe its properties, and what it can be used for.

My two states of matter I called 'Zapzor'. It's solid and gas. It's more funny and you can only find it in Australia. It's a type of slime that has gas inside it. It will keep you cool and it's good to use it in 'Zapzor'.

You can get it from almost any word.

By: [Name]

The Big Picture - looking at levels of understanding

Higher Order Thinking

Creating new matter

Choose two of the states of matter to combine to form a new substance.

Solid + Liquid

Give it a name, describe its properties, and what it can be used for.

From rainwater and sugar, I created 'Zapzor'. It's a type of slime that has gas inside it. It will keep you cool and it's good to use it in 'Zapzor'.

protect you from it is a sticky and

By: [Name]



Item	Value
Apple	100g
Banana	150g
Orange	120g
Strawberry	80g
Blueberry	90g
Raspberry	110g
Blackberry	130g
Pineapple	140g
Watermelon	160g
Cantaloupe	170g
Guava	180g
Papaya	190g
Mango	200g

The Big Picture - looking at levels of understanding

Higher Order Thinking

Creating new matter

Choose two of the states of matter to combine to form a new substance.

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protect you from it is a sticky and

By: [Name]

Conclusion

My prediction was wrong because the golden syrup was the fastest and the shampoo was the slowest. The honey barely moved but it kind of did. I was surprised the shampoo was really slow.

Maths

5 + 4 = 9
 $5 \times 2 = 10$
 $84 + 3 = 87$
 $87 \times \frac{3}{4} = 87 \times \frac{3}{4}$
 Chris was 97 cm after 5 years

5 + 1 = 6
 $5 \times 2 = 10$
 $87 - 6 = 81$
 $87 - 2 = 85$
 Chris's brother grew 2 and a half cm taller than Chris.



Plastic Pollution Is Harming Our Oceans and Needs to Stop.

I strongly believe that plastic pollution in our oceans is deeply harming the environment. It is killing endangered animals; Australia's beaches are beautiful but not when polluted by plastic and by polluting the ocean we are polluting ourselves. So, I strongly believe that plastic pollution needs to stop.

The first point I would like to make is plastic pollution is killing endangered marine wildlife. Imagine going snorkeling to find nothing, but plastic polluted waters and sand compared to beautiful clear waters swimming with fish and beautiful colorful coral reefs, which would you prefer? Take a second to think and see how you would like it if your house, town and country were filled with plastic just flying around everywhere stuck in trees and bushes. How do you feel? How do you feel knowing that some animals are experiencing that right now? Caught up in bits of plastic and slowly dying. According to biological diversity organization endangered wildlife like the Hawaiian Monk Seal and Pacific Loggerhead Turtle are two of about 700 different species that are dying each year due to plastic pollution. Unless you want more endangered species going extinct stop polluting.

My second point I would like to make is that Australia's beaches are extremely beautiful but not when polluted by plastic. After tourist season the beaches are disgusting. They are littered with plastic. I know you might think it's not our jobs to clean up after tourists, but studies have identified that 43% of people at those beaches are Australians or locals. Everybody needs to pick up after themselves and you can set an example by doing it.

My last point is by polluting the ocean we are polluting ourselves. Let me explain. When you litter it ends up in the ocean one way or another and when it gets into the ocean it can be mistaken as lots of things like Jellyfish. Did you know a lot of marine wildlife eat plastic mistaking it as other things such as Turtles and fish? When the fish eat the plastic, it doesn't leave their bodies. Studies show that 33% of fish in the sea are living with microplastics inside of them and when you catch them and eat them you are consuming microplastics. You can say "I will just fish at a clear beach" but if we keep polluting like we are now there will be no clean beaches left and you do not want to be eating fish consuming micro plastics or fish that have been processed overseas.

In conclusion, we really need to stop polluting because it is killing endangered marine wildlife, it is polluting what used to be beautiful beaches and ruining them. Lastly by polluting the ocean we are polluting ourselves. So, trust me you want to stop polluting now!!



Holly's persuasive essay on the left, and Elke's on the right



MS MEL'S
6/7

Real Oceans Are Better Than Plastic Oceans

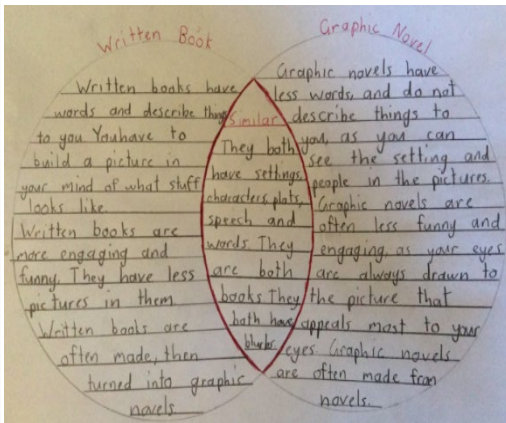
Imagine your beautiful, stunning, breathtaking oceans polluted with plastic. Imagine the poor harmless fish eating plastic and marine animals getting stuck in plastic bags causing them to drown. Imagine your beautiful surf beaches, coral reefs, tourist attractions and other ocean destinations in the world covered in plastic. The scary thing is, in most countries around the world, these images are true. This is a cruel way to treat the world, this is a cruel way to treat our planet, this is a cruel way to kill. We have got to stop now or there will be no ocean left. No ocean for the animals, no ocean for the future generation, no ocean for our food to grow in, no ocean for rain, no ocean for swimming, all because of us. Feel guilty now? I certainly do!

Firstly, the ocean, the first thing that pops into your mind is a blue, aqua, colours of happiness, stunning soft golden sand, the roaring of the waves in the distance, the warm, sparkly sunshine shining down on us. But, what if we take a look at some beaches affected by human plastic use. Muddy, murky water, old plastic, dead fish, dead animals, black sand from all the pollution, the water isn't so blue or aqua, it is a black disgusting colour. Is this the ocean we want to swim in? At the pace we're going, that's what our future generations to come will probably be swimming in. The Nature Conservation has scientifically proven that each year, around 7.98 billion kilograms of plastic is dumped into the ocean. Doesn't that fact make you sick? The Nature Conservation has also proven that there's more plastic in the ocean than fish. Could you even imagine what some reefs would look like covered in all that litter, plastic bags stuck on coral, fish dying. A beautiful reef that was once kaleidoscope colours now all in plastic and all grey and black. Gorgeous little fish swimming around now all floating on top of the water, dead. We have got to partake and stop using plastic otherwise we won't have any healthy oceans left! We have got to stop now, we have got to take action, we have got to change, we have got to stop using plastic, we have got to be kind to our environment otherwise there will be no marine environment.

Secondly, marine animals are dying! Our beautiful whales, dead, our gorgeous octopus', dead, our elegant sharks, dead. UK Conderferries have studied that over 100 million marine animals die each year due to pollution, do you really want that to happen to our environment? What kind of sinister mind wants that? If all the smaller fish and crustaceans die, then there will be no food for the fish who eat the smaller fish then when the larger fish all die from starvation, all the huge giant fish will die meaning there will be no fish left in the ocean causing the ocean to shut down and not be able to perform its essential functions for this earth. According to studies, in the next 30 years, most fish could be extinct. What did those marine animals do to you? Stop being so cruel and sinister and put your litter in a bin and not in the ocean. The ocean is not your garbage bin!

Thirdly, ocean pollution isn't just affecting the beaches, reefs and marine animals, it's affecting humans too! Just think about it, we all love eating fish and chips by the beach or eating delicious lobsters at a fancy restaurant don't we? Well, if those fish eat the plastic we're dumping in their home, we are also eating all that plastic. According to scientific studies, fish can absorb the toxic ingredients used to make plastic when it's dumped in waterways. Do we really want to be eating plastic contaminated fish that affects your health? I don't think so. Plastic ingredients are extremely toxic to humans, it can cause many health issues such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory bowel diseases, autoimmune conditions, neuro-degenerative diseases and stroke. Would you really want to get any of these disease just from eating a plastic contaminated fish? Well, if we didn't litter in the first place, we wouldn't have to worry about our health after eating fish.

In conclusion, ocean pollution is a problem we need to solve quick, the sooner we solve it, the happier the ocean will be, the happier the marine animals will be, the happier humans will be! This problem doesn't just affect the fish and the ocean, it affects us all. We have already covered how horrible our beaches would look covered in litter, how many marine animals die just because of the way we throw out our litter and how all this pollution affects human health. Surely these reasons have persuaded you to take a stand and stop throwing litter into the ocean. We need to change our ways as a community to make a difference.



Todd's Venn Diagram comparing written novels to graphic novels

This term in the Year 6/7 class we have been busy learning about persuasive writing, and how authors use persuasive language and devices to help them convince their readers to feel and think a certain way. Our main persuasive essay was based around plastic pollution with the students opting to focus on why ocean pollution needs to stop. In our English lessons we have also been reading the graphic novel version of *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, which has had mixed reviews from our class, with students tending to learn towards favouring traditional written novels over graphic novels.

At the end of last term students created their own Rube Goldberg Machines which saw some very ingenious inventions created for very simple tasks!



Logan's Rube Goldberg Machine

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE WEEK

This Term's School Experience Week was busy and highly engaging. While some of the students applied themselves to completing their NAPLAN assessments, others were busy with face-to-face activities designed to consolidate and further their learning.

The children embraced the challenge of preparing for a musical performance featuring their recorders and did themselves proud on Wednesday night when they presented before their friends and families. The applause was loud and enthusiastic, showing how much everyone appreciated the talent in the room!

Other highlights of the week included the visit to Port Augusta's Municipal Library, the excursion to Sundrop Farm and the talks presented by Danielle Clode and Chris Fulton.

It was wonderful to see the excited faces on the children as they entered the Library, and the world of books. It is clear we have some very avid readers amongst us. The visit to Sundrop Farm also generated a lot of enthusiasm and interesting questions for the staff who explained the science behind their farming methods.

On Friday, Danielle Clode impressed us all with her extensive knowledge of dinosaurs, the many books she has written and the fossils and other specimens she had brought with her to SOTA. However, perhaps the most inspiring thing Danielle shared with the children was her recollections of living and travelling on a boat while she studied with School of the Air.

Chris Fulton's talk about the research he and his colleagues conduct using scats was very informative and many of the children were eager to collect samples to contribute from their Stations. On the same day we were also visited by staff from Animals Anonymous. The children were spell bound when the sugar glider gracefully travelled through the air from one human to another. Many students touched the animals, even the snake and most would agree that their experience that day would be one of the best they had during SEW.

It was wonderful for the children to be able to spend some time with their Spanish and Japanese teachers too. Making the Koi Noburi was a fun way to connect with Japanese culture and the traditions of Children's Day.

This year's School Experience Week really was a big success, and we are already looking forward to being all together again soon.





TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Welcome to the new (currently untitled) LT Tips section of SOTA Speak! Here I'll be posting some quick guides on some features that the average Windows user may find helpful.

Future topics include Default Apps, Internet Browser Customisation (bookmarks/extensions), Taskbars and Shortcuts, and Converting/Combining PDFs.

Please let me know if you have any topics that you would like featured. I'm also attempting to devise a name for this section, so give me a shout if you think of something catchy!

Saved Internet Browser Passwords

We've all forgotten a password for an online account at some point. Instead of going through the (sometimes extensive) password reset process, you may be able to locate the password if you have previously saved it in your internet browser.

This quick guide will show you how to find (and change) these saved passwords in your favourite web browser.

Google Chrome

1. Open **Google Chrome**, click the **three vertical dots** in the *top right* and select **Settings**
2. On the *Settings* page, scroll down and select **Passwords** under *Autofill*
3. Using the **Search** in the top right, enter a *website, username or email address* to locate the password you need
4. Click the **eye icon** to the *right* of the *password* and enter the **computer's login password** to reveal
 - a. SOTA student laptop password will be **abc123** or **sota123**

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open **Mozilla Firefox**, click the **three horizontal lines** in the *top right* and select **Logins and Passwords**
2. Using the **Search** at the top, enter a *website, username or email address* to locate the password you need
3. Click the **eye icon** to the *right* of the *password* to reveal

Microsoft Edge

1. Open **Microsoft Edge**, click the **three horizontal dots** in the *top right* and select **Settings**
2. Under *Your profile*, select **Passwords**
3. Using the **Search** at the top, enter a *website, username or email address* to locate the password you need
4. Click the **eye icon** to the *right* of the *password* and enter the **computer's login password** to reveal
 - a. SOTA student laptop password will be **abc123** or **sota123**



CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE (CaFHS)

The Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) is a free service for South Australian families with children aged 0-5 years. CaFHS operates at locations all over the state including metropolitan, regional and country areas.

In 2020, COVID-19 together with staff changes caused disruption to CaFHS services in the north of the state. In response to COVID-19 our services were moved online and Telehealth allowed us to continue to offer support to our clients through telephone and video consultations. Telehealth also allows us to connect more easily with our more remote clients and this is something we continue to offer together with face-to-face services which resumed late last year.

We encourage you to call for an appointment on the number below if you need support with:

- feeding
- settling
- sleeping
- health and development
- being a parent
- understand your child's needs
- parents/carers emotional wellbeing
- adjustment to parenting
- child safety
- parenting groups

CaFHS is also excited to be working with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, offering a Sleeping and Settling session for the Bush Babies Parenting Group that commenced in May. Bush Babies is a remote early parenting group focussing on the first six months of a baby's life but it is also open to families with older children. To find out more, contact Mandy.Smallacombe@flyingdoctor.net.

Regular health checks are very important, and we recommend you make an appointment to check your child's health and development at 1-4 weeks, 6 months, 18 months, and preschool age.

Promoting the best child health, development and emotional wellbeing for infants and children is at the centre of what CaFHS do. If you need help and advice regarding your baby or child's health, development or wellbeing please contact us on **1300 733 606, Monday to Friday 9am – 4.30pm**.

You can find out more information about CaFHS and a list of our centres on our website www.cafhs.sa.gov.au.

CaFHS to attend Bronco Branding on 10 July at Oodnadatta

Child and Family Health Nurse (CaFHS), Christine McCracken will be attending this event to offer families of children 0-5 years, the opportunity to access growth reviews, child health and development information and parenting support.

The Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) provides free support for all South Australian children 0-5 years.

www.cafhs.sa.gov.au