



SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter

June 2023 Term 2

Message from the Head of Campus



As we approach the end of term 2 and SOTA's 65th anniversary, we are grateful for what we have achieved together as well as excited about what's ahead for us.

Let's start with gratitude: did you know that this is the 25th issue of *SOTA Speak* in its current newsletter format? Together, we have been consistently producing this newsletter since the first issue in August 2020. Well done to every contributor, especially the teachers, OPFA and CGC chairpersons. Importantly, our thanks to Kristy for organising and formatting every contribution to ensure a neat presentation of the newsletter.

As I looked back at our past newsletters, I realised that often my contributions have been expressions of gratitude and appreciation. The concept of School of the Air as initiated by its founder, Adelaide Miethke epitomises the strength of humanity. Because of her vision and drive to realise it, children in the outback who couldn't travel easily to a school have access to a dynamic education. After more than seven decades since the first School of the Air in Alice Springs in 1951, the concept has grown and continued to be relevant, essential and appreciated by outback families. I recognise the gratitude and appreciation of SOTA by student engagement to school as

evident by their enthusiastic participation in assemblies and lessons, 90% average attendance rate and positive and strong partnerships with parents and supervisors. This level of engagement is the result of the collective commitment and work by parent and supervisors in instilling in students the importance and value of school and supporting them to learn and persevere through challenges, teachers' work in designing and implementing safe, supportive and enjoyable learning and SSOs that diligently support staff, students and families to sustain a smooth daily operation. Two ends of WebEx learning and working together to build a positive foundation about learning, and what school means for the students in their primary years.

We can look forward to coming together for our school camp at El Shaddai. Frankly, I can't think of a better way to wrap up the first semester of school. The camp will be even sweeter with the celebration of SOTA's 65th anniversary. Despite the challenges we face, both in terms of distance and circumstances, our school community has continually rallied together in giving SOTA children a quality education.

During the mid-year break, I encourage you to take time to rest, recharge and read with your children. Engage in activities that bring you joy and foster family connections. As many of you know, learning happen in various forms and settings, even beyond the confines of a schoolroom.

Wishing you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable mid-year break. I look forward to reconnecting with everyone at El Shaddai campsite.

Best wishes
Lai Kuan Lim



Events

Camp: 3-7 July

Book Week: 19-25 August

Mini Schools: 25 - 29 September

Get Together: 8 - 9 December

Student Free Day

August 7th

School Closure Day

September 8th

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 9 August.

CGC: Week 4 (T3) Wednesday 16 August.

DES



DES GOVERNESS

It has come time to dust off all those heart-warming traditional recipes you all love to make so much. The 2023 governess group is pleased to say, we will be creating a cookbook as one of our DES fundraisers.

We would love for you to share this message far and beyond and extend it out to your family/friends to show off your all so irresistible recipes and allows us to collect them into a beautiful cookbook.

If you have any recipes that you would like to share, email Josie.Rains23@gmail.com for further details.

We love to pop them in. If you would like to share a photo or a bit of a story behind it to, we would encourage it. Thanks again!

Library Contacts

To borrow books:

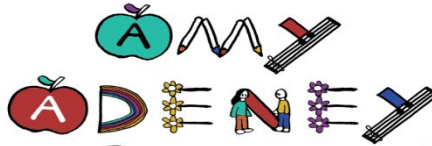
Email library@openaccess.edu.au

To speak with the library:

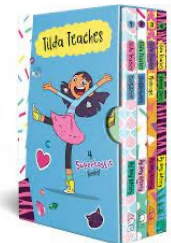
Phone: 08 8309 3500: Option 5

Library News

**ASK
AMY**



This year the SOTA students have had the opportunity to work with author Amy Adeney. It is part of a new program I applied for called Author Pen Pals. Term 1 we received a letter from Amy, and I introduced the students to her books: Turning Cartwheels and Tilda teaches.



Term 2 we had a Q and A session with Amy. The students were so thoughtful with their questions. Amy was very impressed! Here is the list of questions. Have a chat with your children and let them share with you what they discovered about being an author. In term 3 we look forward to doing a mini workshop with Amy to inspire our writing.

George - Do you write Non Fiction or Fiction?

James - What is the main them of most of your books?

Emmett - What is your favourite book to read?

Bonnie - How did you come up with your ideas for your books?

Roy- How long have you been an author for?

Martin - What do you mainly write about?

Alex - How hard is it to write a book?

Jack – Are your books just for kids?

Emmett - How do you start writing a book?

**WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT
TO
ASK
AMY**





REMEMBER:

- Keep recording your reading for Premiers Reading Challenge
- PRC challenges (Indonesian) are due soon – get yours in to be eligible for judging!

Indonesian Challenge

Follow these steps to enter:

1. **Read** a book about Indonesia or in Indonesian (this will count towards your 12 PRC books!)
2. **Write** a review about that book using one of the templates provided
3. **Submit** your review

Every entry will receive an Indonesian Leader's Reading Challenge certificate.

Competition starts: Monday 1 May 2023 (week 1, term 2)

Closing date: Friday 7 July 2023 (week 10, term 2)

Sue J, Jodie and I are looking forward to coming to SOTA's 65th Birthday. It is always a highlight on catching up with you all in person!

Keep on reading because the more you read, the more you know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

Your friendly Library Ninja,

Zoe

SOTA Book Club

Title: The wishing stone

Author and illustrator: The author is Bronwyn Tainui and the Illustrator is Raffaella Cosco.

Reviewer: Jack

What it's about: It is about a stone that a boy called Johnny found. His sister Jade told him it is a wishing stone and so him and his mate Sam and Jade all made a wish. Jade wished for a pony and Sam wished for lots of chocolate in bedrooms and Johnny wished for lots of money in his family.

I would recommend this book to 8 to 12 year olds because there are lots of tricky words.

Title: The 39- STOREY TREEHOUSE
 Author: Andy Griffiths
 Reviewer: Alex, Year 12

What it's about: Th 39- STOREY Treehouse is about Terry and Andy building there treehouse and meeting professor Stupido.

My favourite part of the book was when Professor Stupido unvented the whole universe and Terry had to draw it again.

Rating: 10/10!



Title : BLUEBACK

Author: Tim Winton

Rating: 8/10

Reviewer: Jacob (Dingoes)

What it's about: Blueback is a book written by Tim Winton about a boy named Abel and his best friend Blueback who is a giant blue groper. The book is very short and sweet and explains how friendship is the most important thing and it never goes away.

Recommendation: I recommend this to 9-12yr olds.



Title: A Waltz for Matilda

Author: Jackie French

Reviewer: Stella (Brumbies)

What it's about: A young girl growing up and learning to be self-confident. Matilda, the girl, develops her small sheep station into the largest sheep station in the area.

Recommendation: I personally loved it, I was so sad when it ended, I'd say it's for anyone Year 6 and up.

Title: Grace on the Court

Author: Maddy Proud

Rating: 10/10

Reviewer: Magenta (Eagles)

What it's about: In the book Grace which is the main character goes to a new school with her friends Mia and Stella. She loves netball and really wants to be a professional. She got put into the A grade netball team at her new school. Grace and her older brother didn't get along very well and then they decided to make a music video for tickets to their favorite boy band. But there was a bit of tension between Grace and her brother's best friend Sebastian. I really loved the book because there was a lot of netball and drama. I really enjoyed how the story ended.

Age recommendation: 9-30 years

Title: The Shark Caller

Author: Dianne Wolfer

Rating: 9/10

Reviewer: Ruby (Eagles)

What it's about: The Shark Caller is about a young girl named Isabelle, her twin brother died in a freak diving accident. Isabelle and her Mum are on a plane flying to Papua New Guinea to spread her brother's ashes at the place they always used to swim.



I definitely recommend reading this book as it is really interesting!

Age recommendation: 10 years and up

Title: Just Binnie

Author: Dick King Smith

Age group: 10 and up

Reviewer: Winsome (Eagles)

What it's about: Just Binnie is about a family whose mum and dad go on the Titanic ship and die. The oldest sibling Binnie has to look after the five kids. Binnie falls in love with the vicar, but then World War One begins and Binnie's two older brothers and the vicar go to war.

Recommendation: I loved this book and I recommend it to everyone. It was a nice story that was quite easy to read.

Title: Real Pigeons

Author: Andrew McDonald

Rating: 10/10

Reviewer: Cody (Brumbies)

What it's about: The real pigeons are a gang of crime fighting pigeons. They stop crows, bats, cats and ostriches from causing chaos in the city. The book was really good and quite enjoyable. I liked this book because of its style of drawing, the action and descriptive language.

Age recommendation: 7+

Thank you for all the book reviews, SOTA Super Readers! Keep sharing what you read! We look forward to more reviews. Send them to your teacher or Lai Kuan.



Term 2 Week 4

Miss Emma:

Beau for his fantastic attitude towards learning and the effort he has put into completing his follow up tasks.

Miss Jo:

Sanaisha for some super progress with her reading and always having a go at tasks on Webex. Keep up the great work Sanaisha!

Miss Morley:

Annastasia for her positive attitude towards learning, being organised and committed to her independent tasks, and producing some excellent work in Health with Miss Megan

Miss Kaur:

Lucy for always participating in class discussions and having a go at doing challenging learning tasks.

Ms Mel:

Aurelia for her continued improvement in Maths, including her neat bookwork and comprehensive working out shown in her end of topic test.

Term 2 Week 6

Miss Emma:

Roy for always doing his best in maths follow up tasks.

Miss Jo:

Lisma for trying super hard with her letter formation and finger spaces when completing written work. Way to go Lisma!

Miss Morley:

Shaq for this enthusiasm, engagement, and willingness to share this term in our Indigenous perspective studies

Miss Kaur:

PJ for trying his best in the Digi Tech lesson and adding extra details to his monster by experimenting and using different types of stencils.

Ms Mel:

Ryder for demonstrating independence and persistence when completing his work. As well, as enthusiastically engaging in lessons with Jason.

Miss Megan's Home Visits

Once again, it's almost the end of term and most of us meet up for our annual camp! The time is just flying by. Each week I have been warmly welcomed by the students I have visited, and it's been wonderful to see each child's progress. I have witnessed a real commitment to the reading fluency programme and the positive results coming from this excellent initiative. I see new book worms in the making and I am so glad. Keep up your great work everyone. It's fantastic! Miss Megan



Mr Myles's Visit

Hello SOTA students, supervisors and families.

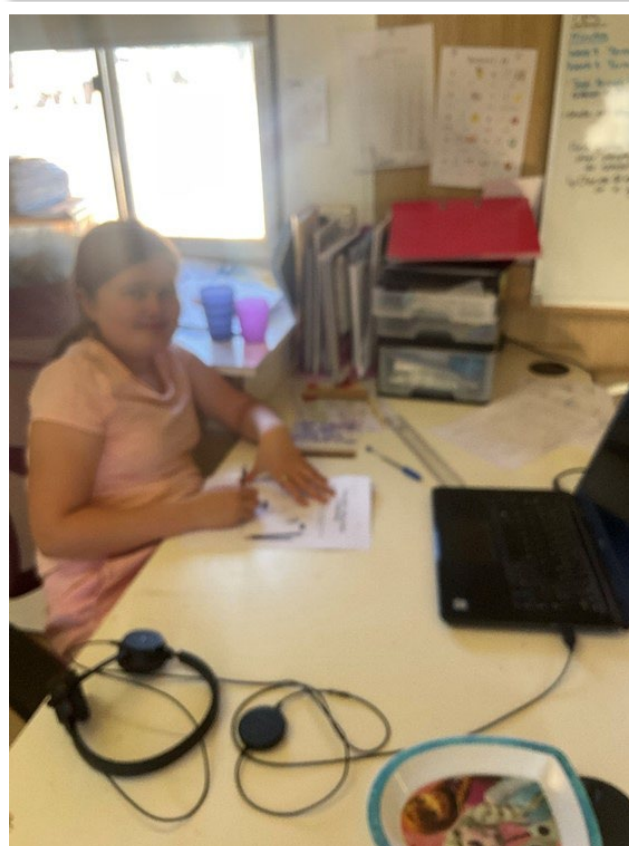
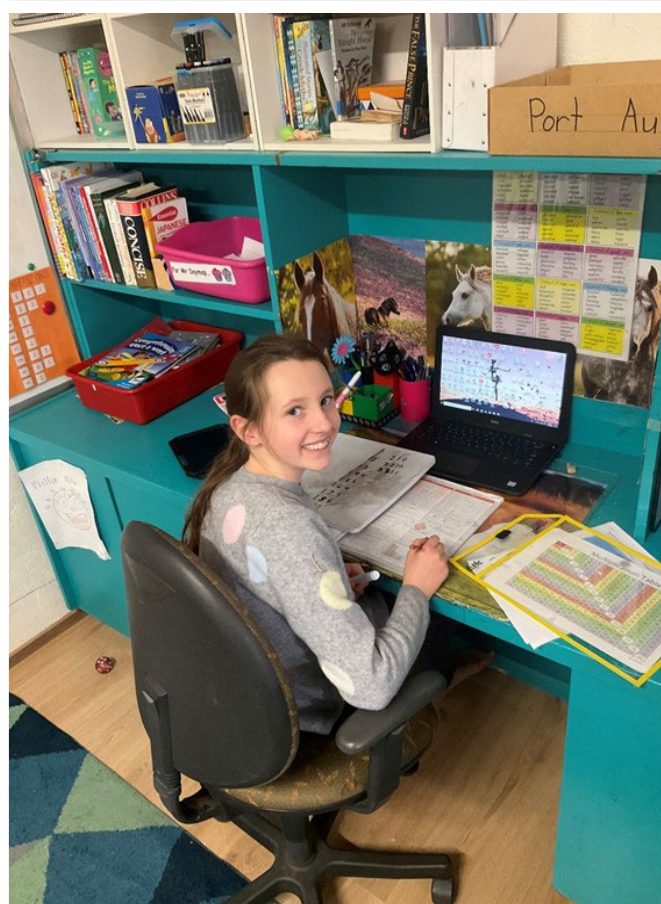


I hope you are all having fun and learning.

As you all know, learning is a journey and so is being an itinerant teacher.

This month I have had the opportunity and privilege to visit some amazing students in their amazing homes. I got to visit Winsome in Wilgena and the Bell family in Dulkaninna where in addition to helping students complete their respective assessment tasks I got to play with dogs, see dirt bikes and horses and meet some truly special people. I would like to say thank you to everyone involved and thank you for having me.

Never stop learning, the journey never ends. 😊



Miss Emma - Term 2 Reception

Well done Receptions for another great term of work!

This term in English we have been looking at a range of different stories. For the past few weeks we have focused on weather stories. Students have been able to use their weather vocabulary to describe weather events. Each student created their own "Big Rain Coming" inspired artwork and were able to write a sentence to go with their pictures.

I am very proud of the Reception's amazing work!



Roy



Simba



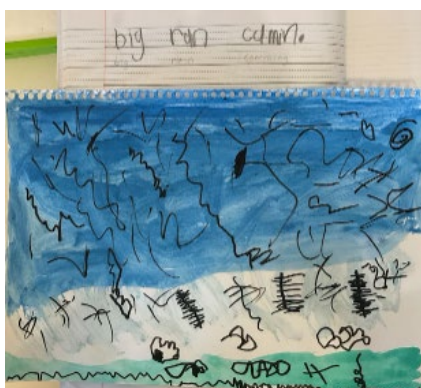
Edward



Remy



Beau



Emmett



Eli

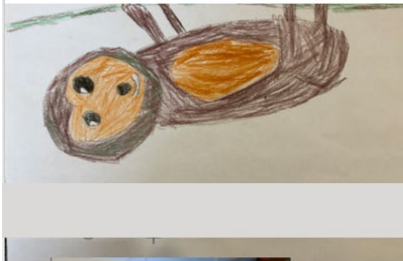
Miss Jo – Term 2 Year 1/2

Art and Digital Technology with Ms Zoe

Art- Students have been learning about lots of different techniques in art. For this task students had to follow step by step instructions to draw their sloth masterpieces- concentrating on size, shape and colour.

In Digital Technologies students have been learning about coding using the program Scratch Junior. They have had the opportunity to experiment with different ways to move, rotate, turn and repeat certain actions in order to create their own animations.

Sanaisha



Honey-May



Lisma



Sloth Masterpieces With Ms Zoe

Lilly

Clem



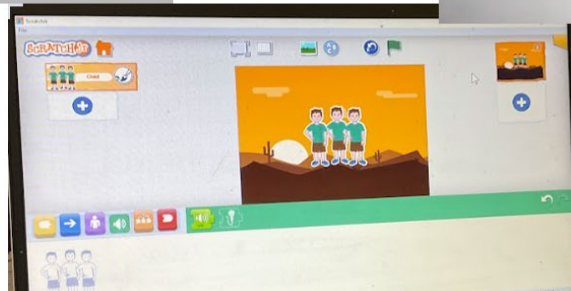
Jack



Coding with Ms Zoe

Dan

Alex



Miss Morley – Term 2 Year 3/4

Almost the end of Term 2 already, what a busy bunch the Year 3-4s have been!

I'm super impressed with all the learning we've done; investigating plants in our gardens, practising making patterns and fractions, trying our hands at coding, and exploring traditional stories, artworks, and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Lara's Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Dieri Aboriginal Corporation, the owners of the land on which we meet today. I pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. I extend my respects to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present here today.

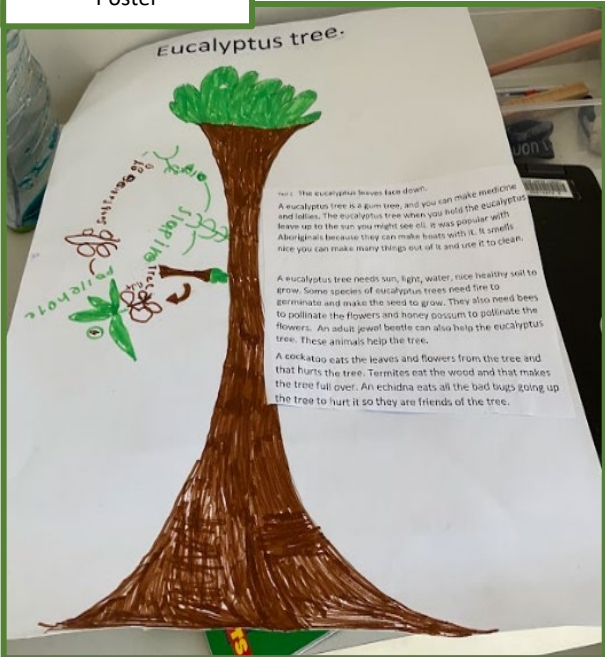
Who are the Dieri people?

The Dieri are an Aboriginal hunting and gathering people of southern Australia's lakes region. The Dieri people live on Cooper River to the east of Lake Eyre. There are approximately 1,500 registered Dieri members that live throughout Souths Wales and Queensland.



Shaquille's Bush Artwork

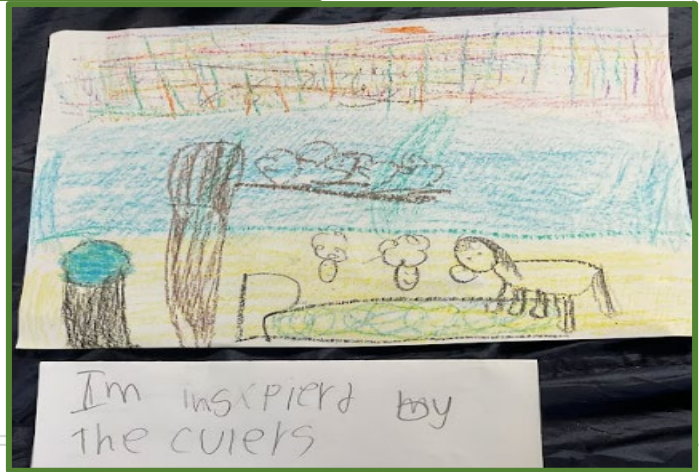
Jayden's Eucalyptus Poster



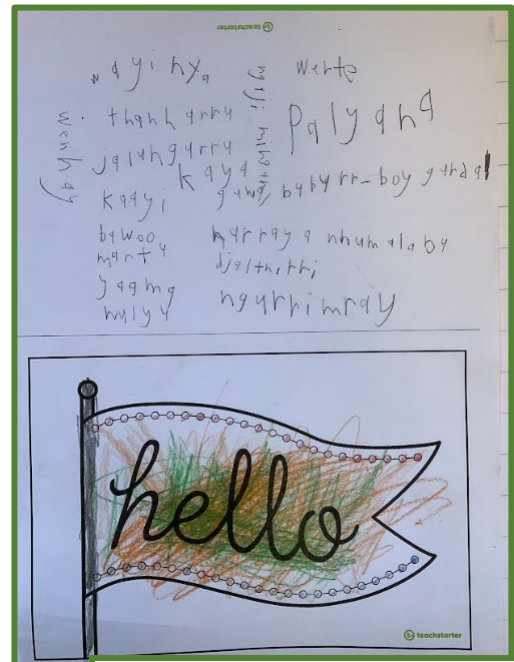
Lawson Household Fraction Hunt



Annastasia's Inspired Artwork



Eli's Textured Artwork



Jase's Aboriginal Languages Hello Card

Creating a Number Pattern Open-Ended Activity

Existing Confident
Create your own number patterns using the rules below.
Write down the rule and the first 10 numbers in your pattern then colour in the pattern on the hundred chart!

Start at 13 and create a number pattern using addition and/or subtraction.
Your pattern must be at least eight numbers long.

My number pattern rule is: ± 5

13, 18, 23, 28, 33, 38
43, 48, 53, 58

Write down the number pattern. Don't forget to end at the number 55!

13, 18, 23, 28, 33, 38, 43, 48, 53, 58

Bonnie's Number Patterns

George's Eucalyptus Life Cycle



Fun Facts

- There are over 900 different types of Eucalyptus Trees in Australia and its surrounding islands.
- A Eucalyptus can be a tiny small shrub or a 400 feet tall tree.
- Other names are Stringy Bark Tree or Gum Tree.
- Some Eucalyptus trees peel their bark like a snake shedding its skin.
- Some Eucalyptus trees have very sticky sap like glue or honey.
- You can't eat the fruit of a Eucalyptus tree.

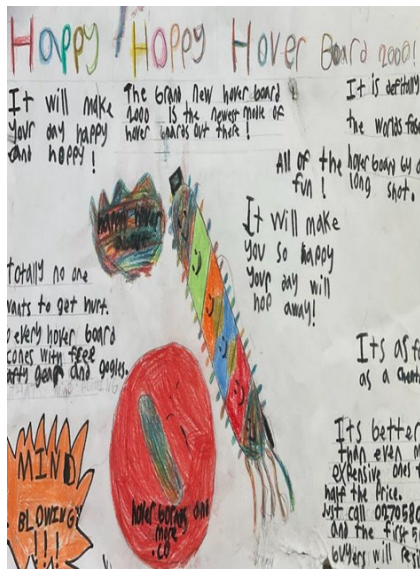


Martin's Eucalyptus Facts

Miss Kaur – Year 5/6

It's almost the end of Semester 1, 2023 and I'm so proud of all the learning year 5/6 have done this semester. In English, we learnt all about advertisements. We looked at different language and visual features used in an advertisement.

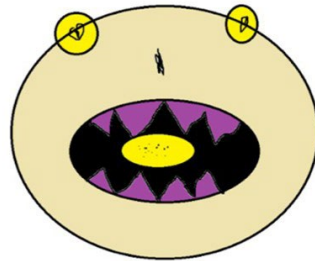
In Art, students sketched and painted a painterly portrait using a range of skills they have been learning with the marvellous Miss Mel.



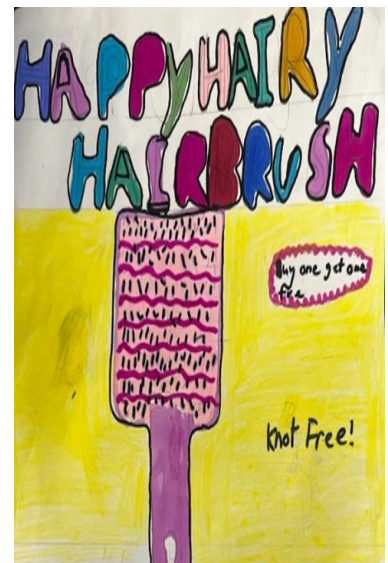
Nelson

Charles Chocolate cookies

Come get our new Chocolate cookies! There as tasty as a fondue!
 Charles chocolate cookies are the best you will find out there! It is the best in the north east and west.



PJ



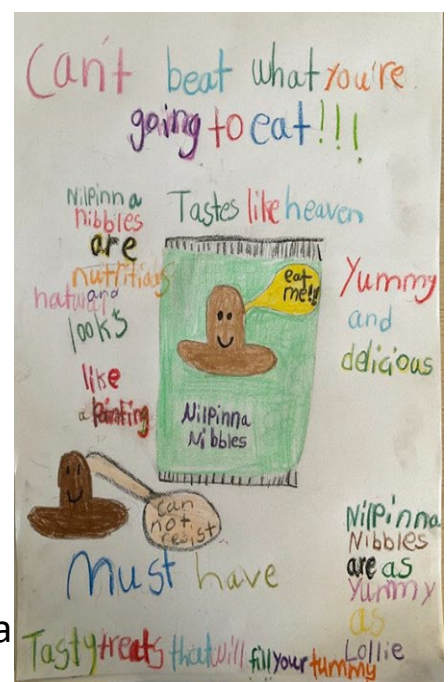
Winsome



James



Lachie



Magenta



Mareike



Cody



Micah



Lucy

Ms Mel – Term 2 Year 7



In Design and Technology Jacob and Abby used their knowledge of hydraulics to create a working model of a cattle crush and hydraulic gate that could be used on a station in the yards.



This term in HASS we have been learning about the Australia political and legal system. Ruby analysed the campaigns for and against the upcoming referendum and presented her understanding of how referendums in Australia are conducted.

What happens after an Australian citizen casts their vote?

On the day that the referendum is held, the eligible Australian citizens go to vote either yes or no for the referendum. Once they have voted, their votes are then counted towards the referendum. If the referendum is approved by a majority of the voters it is passed and the change is made to the Australian Constitution.

Why is it important to be informed about Australia's political and legal system?

It is important to understand the Australian political system because it allows you to understand the different levels of power in Parliament so you can make clear decisions about your public choices.

It is important to understand the Australian legal system so you know how the laws are made and what the process of them being created are. It can help you learn what laws you shouldn't break.

HEALTH AND PE			
Investigating fitness			
Component of fitness	Meaning	Health or skill related?	
Heart rate	Measure of heart rate at rest and during exercise	Health	Yes/No
Endurance	Ability to sustain a level of physical activity for a long period of time	Health	Yes/No
Balance	The ability to maintain equilibrium in a position without falling over or losing	Health/Skill	Yes/No
Cardio-respiratory fitness	The ability of the heart, lungs and blood vessels to deliver oxygen to the muscles during physical activity	Health	Yes/No
Strength	The ability to exert or resist force	Health/Skill	Yes/No
Flexibility	The range of motion around a joint	Health/Skill	Yes/No
Agility	The ability to change direction quickly and efficiently	Health/Skill	Yes/No
Coordination	The ability to use different parts of the body together	Health/Skill	Yes/No



In PE students have been developing their yoga skills and practicing hip-hop dancing. Aurelia classified components of fitness, found in both hip-hop and yoga, as a health or skill related component. She also practiced and performed a short but complex hip-hop dance routine!

In Science we have been learning about food webs and tropic levels. Stella recorded in detail a list of living organisms in the Flinders Ranges. She then created food chains and a food web to show the interactions and transfer of energy between these organisms.

Living things in a habitat...

- Producers: Grass, clover, lucerne, lucerne, lucerne
- Consumers: Kangaroo, wallaby, rabbit, possum, quokka, koala
- Decomposers: Fungi, bacteria
- Scavengers: Magpie, crow, raven, black magpie, curlew
- Secondary consumers: Snake, fox, dingo, wild dog, dingoo
- Tertiary consumers: None



MUSCLE CARS

BY RYDER BARNUM

STUFF YOU CAN PUT ON YOUR MUSCLE CAR.

You can put as much as you want on your car. You can put more wheels, more air, more... More air and more fuel you don't have to have... More air you can put on your car to make them car look cool. The car... More air to have them drive. It you want to have it fast... and you had some of them... More air and the other you had them... You can put as much as you want on your car.



At the beginning of this term Ryder researched his chosen topic of Muscle Cars and shared his knowledge through an animated presentation.



Connellan Airways Trust



A big thank you is extended to Connellan Airways Trust for the generous grant (\$3000) that was paid towards the cost of the Canberra Camp 2023 for our years 5, 6 and 7 students.



Connellan Airways Trust is also assisting families with the accommodation costs for face-to-face events in 2023. Again we extend a big thankyou!!

Reminder:

Accommodation receipts in one PDF document to be emailed to kristy.harding435@schools.sa.edu.au by end of day **Thursday 5th October 2023**

Families can also individually apply for General Grants. Please refer to their website for further details <https://www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au/>.