SOTA Speak School of the Air Newsletter



March 2021 Term 1

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

As an OAC Marden teaching and learning coordinator for the past couple of years, I



have worked across campus with SOTA staff on many occasions. I am now very excited to be working even more closely with 'everyone' at SOTA for the next 12 school weeks. As I mentioned in my email, I have a long history of working in country school environments (Central Australia, the South East and Eyre Peninsula), in many roles, including Principal and R-12 Coordinator positions. I have taught across all year levels R-12, with a particular interest in Literacy, Science and Technology. Having lived on Eyre Peninsula on a family farm, I have driven through Port Augusta many, many times, stopping only for groceries or Macca's, so I am also looking forward to discovering more about this unique area and what it has to offer.

I believe that building effective working relationships is essential to ensure that, as educators, our goal is to always provide excellence, so every child can achieve their potential. Maintaining the positive partnership with the wider school community and the effective learning environment provided for all students that Lai Kuan and the staff have established will be my priority. As a school staff, we want to work as closely as possible with parents and the community to enhance the educational service we provide. We may

not get it right all the time and I am not sure that there is a school anywhere that can claim to get it right all the time for every student, every day. However, I will ensure we try our best and will keep doing so to help every student.

I wish everyone a wonderful Easter break and look forward to meeting many of you at the school camp next week.

Nicole Humphries

SOTA Head of Campus

EVENTS

Learning Conversations: 31 March No student classes

Good Friday Public Holiday: 2 April

Easter Monday Public Holiday: 5 April

Camp: 6 to 9 April



School Experience Week (Naplan): 10-14 May

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 (T2) Wednesday 12th May (face to face meeting as during School Experience Week)

CGC: Week 4 (T2) Wednesday 19th May (WebEx)

Term 2 will look different without our very competent Lai Kuan at the helm, but she has ensured things are organized for upcoming face to face events and has put hours of planning into making sure things will run smoothly in her absence. We all wish her safe travels and to stay strong during this hard time.

We were lucky to receive the very exciting news that we will welcome Nicole Humphries for term 2 as Head of Campus and look forward to meeting her at camp. We really appreciate the position being filled so quickly and will ensure a smooth transition through the next term.

Great news from the last OPFA meeting was the future appointment of an SSO for SOTA commencing in term 2. This is really pleasing news after it being on the agenda for so long and now being able to give families

the support when needed, which is a high priority for our families.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Port Hughes camp, a big thank you for SOTA being able to find another caterer at very short notice and thanks to Candice for organising Golden North for donating dessert for the camp. Thanks for everyone putting in their time and effort to bring it all together. Make sure you have all packed your linen, towels, pillows, an outfit for each season (you never know!), good shoes, hat and all the extra's that fill up our bottomless 4wds.

After camp, the next face to face will be SEW in term 2 so book your accommodation if you haven't done so already and start prepping your kids for another week of excitement! NAPLAN will be taking place during that week also so make sure your kids are aware of this.

As we look forward to further face to face events returning to close to normal, mini schools have been able to be planned for term 3. A survey was emailed out with options and the majority have voted to go to Woomera this year.

Please remember to get your photos/artwork/news into SOTA Speak by the end of weeks 2 and 7 if you have anything to share. We all love reading news of our wonderful SOTA kids and seeing what people have been up to.

Cheers Leisa- Chair OPFA Petie – Chair SOTA CGC





DISTANCE EDUCATION SUPERVISORS



DES GOVERNESS

Wow this first term has really flown by! I hope everyone has settled back into their school routines nicely and the kids are all excited for school camp!

As a group we have been working on organising the list of resources and equipment for families to choose from. Information has been sent out to families along with the form to fill out on what resources and equipment you would like in the schoolrooms to assist the children in their learning and development.

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:

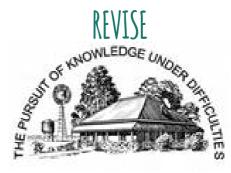
ACCOUNT NAME: Open Access College Council

BSB: 105 069

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 278824640 DESCRIPTION: Name, DES Cap/s

Email Receipt to:

<u>kristy.harding435@schools.sa.edu.au</u> and <u>finance.matters@openaccess.edu.au</u>



Georgy and I were present at the ICPA Conference recently and those who were unable to attend, missed two superb guest speakers. That conference is always well organised and it was so good to meet and talk to people face to face. I need to say that REVISE teachers have so much respect and admiration for all of the Mums and govies who supervise their students' lessons. Their commitment to ensuring that isolation is not a hindrance to learning is exceptional. I have spent some time at Wilgena and Mary is at Holowilena as I write. Georgy finishes classroom duties at the end of this term and will be headed for Innaminka. 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 $1\rightarrow 12$ times tables please check out timestables.com to help students progress through the tables



MK'S HOME VISITS

Hi all

Due to publication deadlines I could not include a photo of my Week 4 visit to see Shaquille and Sanaisha....so here it is!



Week 5 Monday saw the staff assemble for the third day of Berry Street PD at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Normal IT duties resumed on the Tuesday as I headed back to North Well for the first time since Term 2 2017. Having first visited there in 2014 I have been able to see Elke grow from a shy Reception student to a confident Year 7 leader.

After a cancellation to my original plan, Week 6 took me for a bonus visit to Sturt Vale for the first time. Alex is our only new student this year and has settled in well to SOTA life. She proved very hard to beat at ALL card/board/ball games we played.

A short Week 7 ended with eight students on campus due to the ICPA Conference in Port Augusta on the Friday. Eli, Ryder, Lawson, Bonnie, Martin, Mareike, Winsome and Sam. Needless to say that we had a great day together.

Week 8 took me back to Sturt Vale for my scheduled visit. It was only two weeks since I had visited Alex which was a different experience for me as visits are usually spread much further apart. The second half of Week 8 saw my return to Abby at Braemar for the first time since June 2016. She proved to be the Braemar Uno champion!

Week 9 saw me head back up the Stuart Highway to The Twins. It certainly was not my first visit to the Rankins although it did seem strange to not have Hayden in the schoolroom for the first time. A marathon game of monopoly lasted three days and was not completed when I was sent home Thursday PM due to the imminent rain coming from Friday morning (good call Petie and Ryan). A trip out to Prominent Hill to utilize their PE facilities and





MR ERIC'S HOME VISITS

Since I last put pen to paper (so to speak) I have travelled the Birdsville track.

Said "catch you later" to Beau as he went for a morning flight in the chopper to spot for the pilot before starting the school day, and after school outings to see the stock being mustered or the ringers working in the yards.

Week 5 headed back up the Stuart HWY to see Lawson, Eli and Ryder and relived some of my misspent youth learning to replay 4 square, Totem Tennis and whittling to pass the time. While there, I was lucky enough to be given a bird's eye view as the drone was sent soaring across the countryside and it was a sight to see.

Week 6 saw a rush as I made phone calls to families I had not seen, to see who could squeeze me in on their busy schedules. With a stoke of good fortune and some rushing around, Wednesday I was off to see Ruby and Nelson who always have lots of activities happening around the station from drillers coming and going to station hands out mustering. (Thanks for having me at such short notice).

Week 7 I hosted Martin and Mareike at SOTA where we took over the Studio room and made ourselves at home. We got the opportunity to interact with children from Augusta Park Primary school during recess and lunch breaks, playing chasing games, swinging on the play equipment and we even had a go at modified baseball with the ball being knocked out of the park on several occasions.

Week 8 I had a change of direction and headed out into the Flinders Ranges to see Todd and Stella. With some cricket played and a fantastic walk up the creek to look at some European rock art, Todd then showed me how the Flying Fox over the creek worked.

Week 9 with road closures in the east due to much needed rain, I went out west out into the dry side of the state to see Asher and Connor for a quick visit, but it was not dry by the time I was ready to leave Friday with 25mls





During the past month I have been able to visit Bonnie, Cody, Lara and Dan, Aurelia and James and Holly, Katie and Tilly. In Week 4 I was in Thurlga where I climbed Bonnie's thinking tree and her tree house.

MISS MEGAN'S HOME VISITS

Bonnie developed a fantastic narrative story, and I admired the glorious view. My next trip was to Dulkaninna where, as I arrived, I was greeted by sunshine flashing from the water in their creek and a fabulous flock of birds who were flying high in a bright blue sky. It was a breathtaking scene. Week 6 took me to Upalina Station. A highlight of my stay was climbing to a high point where we all watched as smoke billowed above the hills. The CFS was managing a controlled burn and the sky was stained with smoke. In Week 7, I was able to travel to Martins Well. I loved the big gum trees and the journey through the Flinders Ranges. Martins Well has a milking cow and early in the morning, I watched as Katie and her father filled a pail with delicious, frothy milk.

In Week 8 I watched as Logan and Magenta swam with yabbies. They showed me how to hold one and I gave it a go. Logan and Magenta are accomplished horse riders and they lent me Miss Piggy so that I could have a short ride too. That was so much fun that I have vowed to attempt trotting next time I am up in Nilpinna.

I spent week 9 in Wilgena Station and Miss Tennessee was able to join me. We arrived on the last day of shearing and were able to share in the celebrations of all that hard work. There was a big barbeque followed by games for all. The weather was perfect until the rain! We loved every minute of it.

Thank you, everyone, for such a wonderful introduction to life on Outback Stations.

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 parts of speech, particularly common and proper nouns.



MISS MILLY'S YEARS 2 & 3

Year 2:

Eli and Shaquille used notes and coins to represent monetary values for our Maths unit. In the Arts, we looked at different techniques. George created a piece of nature art outside his schoolroom. Besides writing fairytales in English, we have been working on sounds each week (Jayden) and in grammar, the use of exclamation marks (Lara). Well done everybody for putting so much effort into your learning this term!

Year 3:

In our English unit we planned, wrote and edited narrative texts (Magenta). Nelson created the character Grandma from the book, George's Marvellous Medicine. In Maths, Lachie looked at different ways to represent the same monetary value. For our Integrated unit, Mareike researched a significant person and decided to tell the story of this person in the form of a sculpture. In the Arts we looked at different techniques. James created a piece of nature art outside his schoolroom. In Science PJ designed a poster about different animal groups.

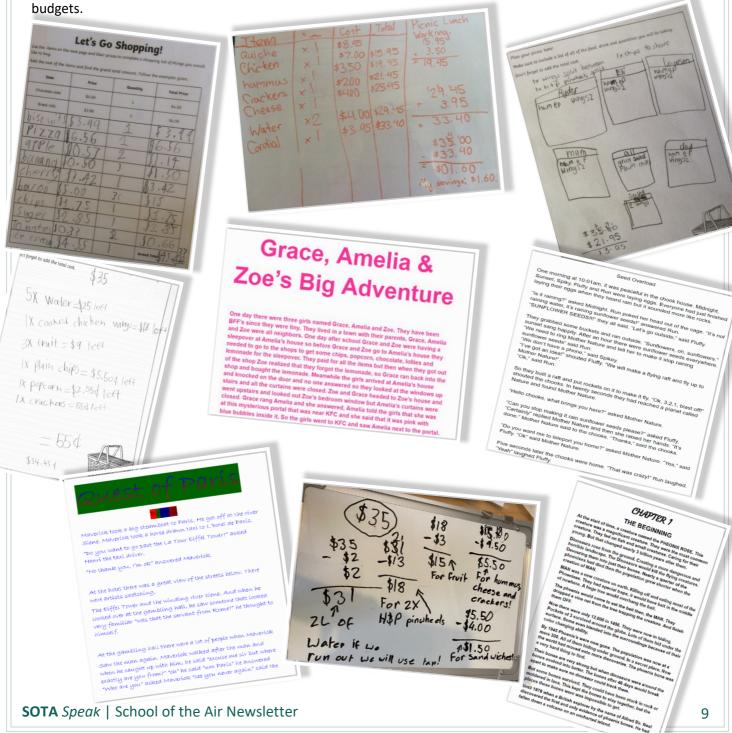




MISS TENNESSEE'S YEAR 4 & 5

In the Year 4 class we have been busy writing narratives and learning about different ways to make our narratives interesting. In Integrated we have been learning about the First Fleet and we wrote journal entries. In Maths we have been learning how to round money, add money and calculate change.

In the Year 5 class we have been writing and editing fantasy narratives and using similes and metaphors to describe characters, settings, and actions. In Integrated we have been writing and filming interviews with important people from the Gold Rush and Eureka Stockade. For Maths we have been learning about discounts, GST and making





MS MEL'S YEAR 6/7

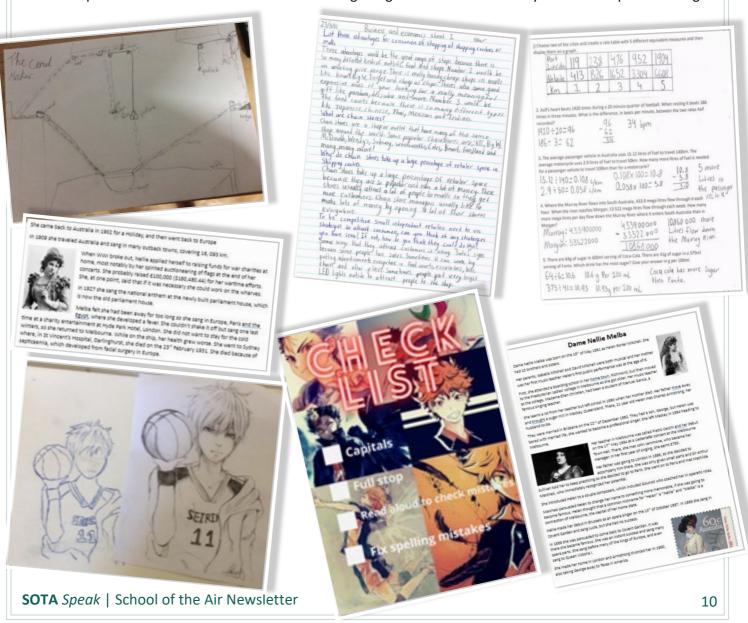
This term has flown by and we have had some fantastic pieces of work produced in our 6/7 class. In Mathematics we have been exploring financial maths using fractions, percentages, ratios and rates.

In English we have been exploring life stories and the features of biographies and autobiographies. This week students are busy researching some famous Australian faces found on our money for their assessment piece.

In Science students have had to put their creative hats on (or maybe their mad scientist hats) and create Rube Goldberg Machines. These are crazy contraptions that make easy everyday tasks very complex.

In Art students have been learning about the art installations, elements of art and design principles which they are using to complete their main art piece.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Holly, Logan, Elke and Todd who have also demonstrated excellent leadership skills in SRC and have been instrumental in getting the student-led Monday assemblies up and running!







Term 1 Week 6

Reception: Daniel for his continued enthusiasm and participation in all learning areas.

Year 1: Bonnie for actively participating in all WebEx lessons and her willingness to give her work a go.

Year 2: George for participating in lessons and putting effort into work.

Year 3: Nelson for participating in lessons and persisting with challenging tasks

Year 4: Micah for active and enthusiastic participation in lessons.

Year 5: Abby for working hard in her Maths and using all the different strategies to solve our multiplication problem.

Year 6/7: Todd continuously tries his best in all online lessons and is an active contributor to our class. He has shown a willingness to extend himself in his learning and strives to learn more each day.

Term 1 Week 8

Reception: Sanaisha for actively engaging with her learning.

Year 1: Lawson for actively participating in all learning areas.

Year 2: Shaquille for participation in lessons and putting effort into his work.

Year 3: Anakin for participation in lessons and putting effort into all his work.

Year 4: Lily for actively participating in WebEx discussions and for having a go at answering questions.

Year 5: Aurelia for showing her working out and explaining her thought process when solving Maths problems.

Year 6/7: Logan for putting in an outstanding effort this week and making leaps and bounds in his learning.

Special 'Shout Out

Todd for demonstrating fantastic leadership skills and adaptability to ensure assembly ran smoothly.



TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT



Telephone support for all students is available from the Help Desk on **8309 3500 option 3**. Support is available 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Additionally, the college website has a Help Desk section with help sheets on how to accomplish common tasks. Details for contacting the Help Desk are also available on the OAC website. Reminder that Jordan can be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday by contacting 8642 2077

OAC WEBSITE SCHOOL TV RESCOURCES



School TV is a resource for parents to learn about practical strategies to help manage modern-day issues and challenges affecting today's youth across both primary and secondary school levels.

To enter the School TV library click here

