



# SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter

March 2022 Term 1

## Message from the Head of Campus



It was a joy to see the early birds at Barry St gate waiting in delightful anticipation to enter the school compound. Our joy grew as more students arrived, chatting with excitement and glee. Our new Reception students brightened the mood of all staff, particularly their teacher Miss Emma exponentially. Their faces - endearing, their laughs - infectious and their curiosity - delightful. Our collective effort to organise and participate in Catch Up Week was well worth the time.

Amidst all the excitement of getting together, we were sad to hear the resignation of our dedicated and capable SSO, Dione. Fortunately, we were able to appoint Shelby to take up the responsibilities without too much loss of time. We welcome Shelby, and thank Dione for her contribution to SOTA students' learning, and the difference she made in her time with us. We wish Dione a speedy recovery and rewarding chapter ahead.

After 9 weeks into our trial structure, feedback by teachers and parents have been positive. Teachers' efforts to encourage participation in class, provide differentiated learning to cater to student needs, and make more timely contact with supervisors and parents to support student learning are showing progress. Team teaching is also working so well that

some students are asking for additional teachers to join their classes. This trial structure is making steady progress because all of us, including parents who had strong reservations initially, are working together in the best interests of our students.

As we head towards the end of term 1, there are a couple of key events to look forward to:

- Science Day on Monday, 11 April, Week 11. Again thanks to Chris Fulton, SA Arid Lands Landscape Board for organising the experts to share their knowledge and keen interest on plants and habitats with students.
- Learning Conversations on Monday and Tuesday, 11-12 April of Week 11 to support students' effort in making improvements in their learning. Bookings opened on Monday, 28 March.

Additionally, we'll also begin our trial of self-booking of itinerant teacher visits for term 2 on Google Calendar. Booking will open at 8.45am, Wednesday, 13 April. A help sheet can be found in this issue of SOTA Speak.

An enduring strength of SOTA is our shared recognition that students are at the heart of our work, struggles and reward. So, we choose to improve the school experience for our students, we choose to try a little harder, engage a little more, care a lot more, although we could easily make different choices.

*"If you don't give anything, don't expect anything. Success is not coming to you. You must come get it."*  
- Marva Collins

Best wishes  
Lai Kuan Lim



## Events

SOTA Science Day: **11 April**

Learning Conversations: **11-12 April No usual classes**

Good Friday Public Holiday: **15 April**

Easter Monday Public Holiday: **18 April**

School Holidays: **19 – 29 April**

Pupil Free Day: **9 May**

School Experience Week: **16-20 May**

Naplan Testing Days: **18-19 May**

National Sorry Day: **26 May**

National Reconciliation Week: **27 May – 3 June**

Camp: **25 - 29 July**

Mini Schools: **20-24 September**

Get Together: **3 – 5 December**

### All meetings at 3:30pm

OPFA: Week 3 (T2) Wednesday 18 May (face to face meeting as during School Experience Week)

CGC: Week 4 (T2) Wednesday 25 May (WebEx)

My goodness, time is flying. As we have all recently been informed, camp has been postponed until term 3, week 1, due to the changing of restrictions and the need to let all the Port Lincoln contacts know within a reasonable time frame. This decision was not made lightly by our staff members as we all know how much camp means, but it was made with the best interest of everybody, and it gives us more time to plan an amazing camp!! Covid throws us plenty of curveballs, but I believe life is returning to our 'new normal' and things can get back on track, slowly and eventually. Things on the CGC front have been quiet, but I want to ensure parents of grade 6 kids are getting onto their exemptions, if they are choosing to do so, before the end of term. Our new SSO is settling in well and I can report that Ryder loves getting onto his lesson and is there with enthusiasm. OPFA meetings are always well attended, and feedback is always constructive and positive so thank you to everyone who speaks up and for jumping on board with things.

We have been lucky enough to be included in an opportunity with Connellan Airways Trust whereby they reimburse \$60 per night, for up to 5 nights, 3 times a year, for accommodation for the families. This will go a long way to help us financially, especially when some travel so far. More details to follow on how this will work.

Our weather is cooling, so enjoy the breezes and sunsets (or sunrises if you are up early enough to watch them!) and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Cheers

Leisa- Chair OPFA

Petie – Chair SOTA CGC

## 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.

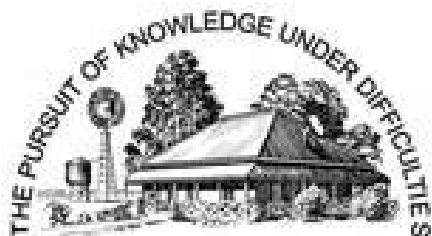
### SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

The SOTA CGC discuss governance issues that require further discussion from OPFA meetings.

#### OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates



## REVISE



Updated email address for contacting Revise is [ladygewing@gmail.com](mailto:ladygewing@gmail.com)

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## 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).

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## Premier's Be Active Challenge

The PbaC is back for its 16<sup>th</sup> year. It aims to encourage physical activity across schools. Prizes are up for grabs. The goal is to do at least 60 minutes of physical activity/day on at least 5 days/week for one month. Information can be found at [www.pbac.sa.edu.au](http://www.pbac.sa.edu.au)

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### Term 1 Week 4

*Miss Emma* Clem for taking on learning challenges and trying his hardest during lesson.

*Miss Megan:* Martin for his infinite patience, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning. Martin always puts in 110% effort during follow up tasks and is kind and thoughtful to others.

*Ms C:* Magenta for having a go at everything and for participating in class discussions.

*Miss Tennessee:* Cody for setting himself a challenging goal in Maths and working hard to achieve this.

*Ms Mel:* Ruby for taking initiative and asking lots of questions to help with her learning.



### Term 1 Week 6

*Miss Emma:* Sanaisha for your amazing follow up work and effort at home during week 5.

*Miss Sara:* George for actively participating in class discussions and activities as well as keeping on top of your follow up work.

*Ms C:* Anakin for your active participation in Webex lessons and your outstanding effort in Science and HASS.

*Miss Tennessee:* Lily for applying yourself in Maths and producing consistent high quality work.

*Ms Mel:* Sam for listening carefully to instructions on lessons and producing thoughtful answers in your follow up activities.

### Term 1 Week 8

*Miss Emma:* Charli for the effort she is putting into her school room tasks; especially her incredible work creating a character, setting and problem for a fairy-tale narrative!

*Miss Sara:* Bonnie for her enthusiasm when participating in class discussions and activities as well as showing quality follow up work in all subject areas!

*Ms C:* James for his perseverance and persistence even when tasks are difficult!

*Miss Tennessee:* Micah for being persistent when trying different strategies to solve multiplication and division problems during Maths lessons!

*Ms Mel:* Abby for excellent work ethic and consistent participation in lessons.



## MK's Home Visits

### Week 6

It was great to get back in the LandCruiser and hit the road again and this time I was not dreaming. So after passing my RATs test, Week 6 saw me hit the Strzelecki Track heading to Innamincka to check out Shaq and Sanaisha. The green transformation of parts of the Strz was a sight to behold.



### Week7

I was briefly stranded at SOTA early in Week 7 continuing work on the North Shields camp . I also took the opportunity to keep the 2022 Yearbook up to date and now have nine parts of it completed. I spent Wednesday making out I was Shelby and took her Student Support lessons. Thursday and Friday took me to Upalinna to see Aurelia and James



### Week 8

Back into the classroom for the first two days doing DIBELS PD. For the next two days I filled in as TRT for Sophia, Mel and Tennessee and then for an absent Marden teacher on Friday (phew!). On Friday I pretty much had SOTA to myself as there was an afternoon mass exodus of the rest of the staff to the William Creek Gymkhana and Motokhana. Unfortunately, I had previous family commitments with my son and his fiancée back in Australia from Canada so could not join them.

MK



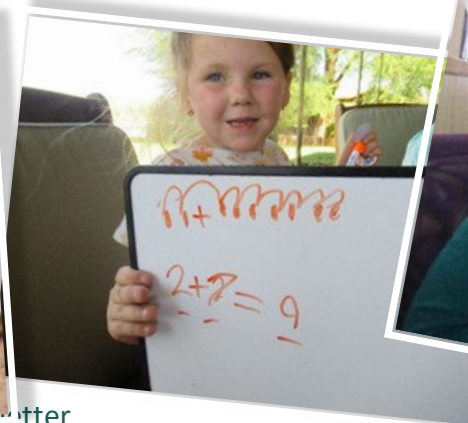
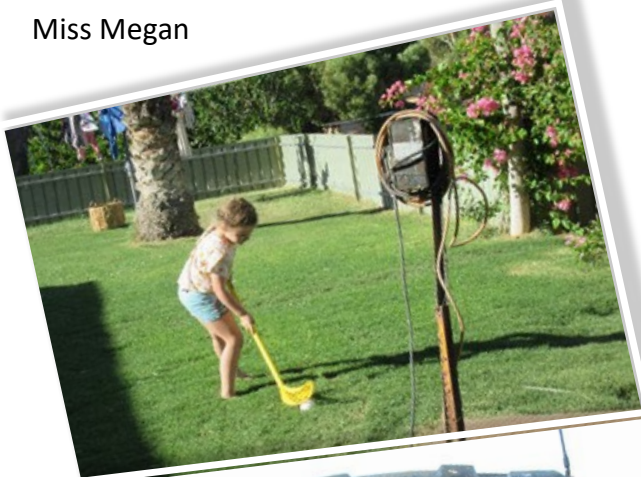
## Miss Megan's Home Visits

This year has finally begun for Itinerant visits. Mine have been so rewarding. Honey-May, Lara, Dan and Cody have shown such a strong commitment to their learning and during my visits we have had lots of fun together.

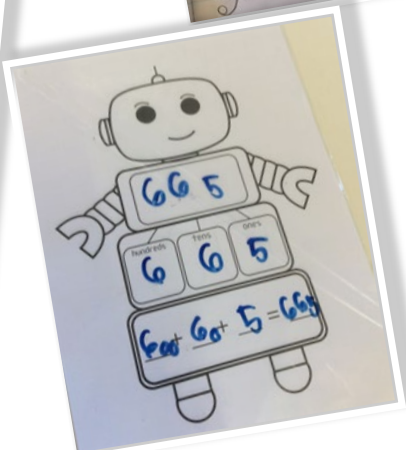
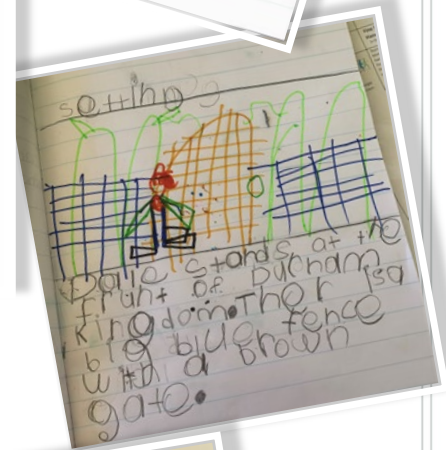
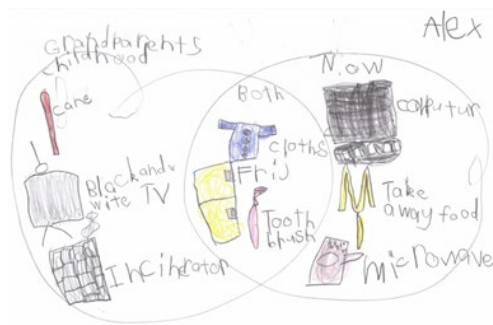
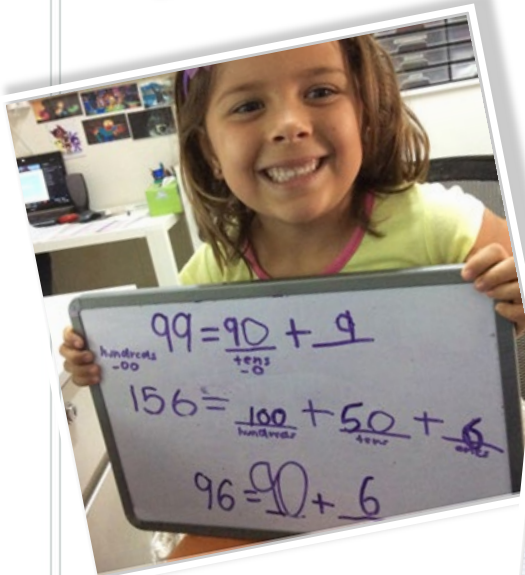
There are still signs of the heavy rains we have had this year and it's been great to see how green the land has become. The animals and all we humans are very happy.

I really look forward to revisiting Honey-May, Lara, Dan and Cody and I hope to make many productive visits to all my families over the coming months.

Miss Megan



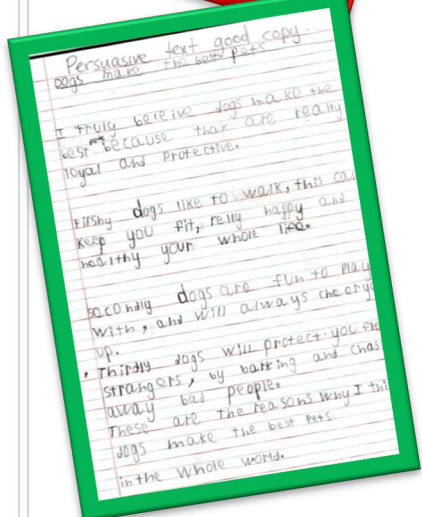
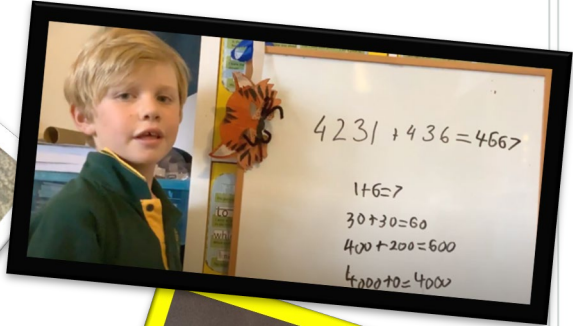
# Miss Emma's Reception/ 1



This term Miss Emma's Receptions and Year Ones have been looking at fairy tales. They have produced retells of popular fairy tales and are now working on producing their own fairy tales. In Maths students have been working on place value and addition. As part of our HASS this term, students have been looking at changes to childhood over time and comparing their childhoods to that of their grandparents.

# Miss Sara's 2/3

It has been hectic but fantastic to finally settle into my class! Yay! Thank you so much Miss Megan for doing such a wonderful job in getting Term 1 rolling with your tremendous effort and enthusiasm! I am so proud to see our class's fabulous work so far. It has been a real honour to get to meet some parents and half our class during our face-to-face catch up in Week 5. We are getting better at persuading our readers in Writing. We enjoy partitioning and making arrays in Maths. We have also been feeling the 'Heat' in Science. Our Digital Technology knowledge is being put to good use. Besides acting, our creativity extends to creating collage paintings of various scenes from Jack and the Beanstalk story in Drama.







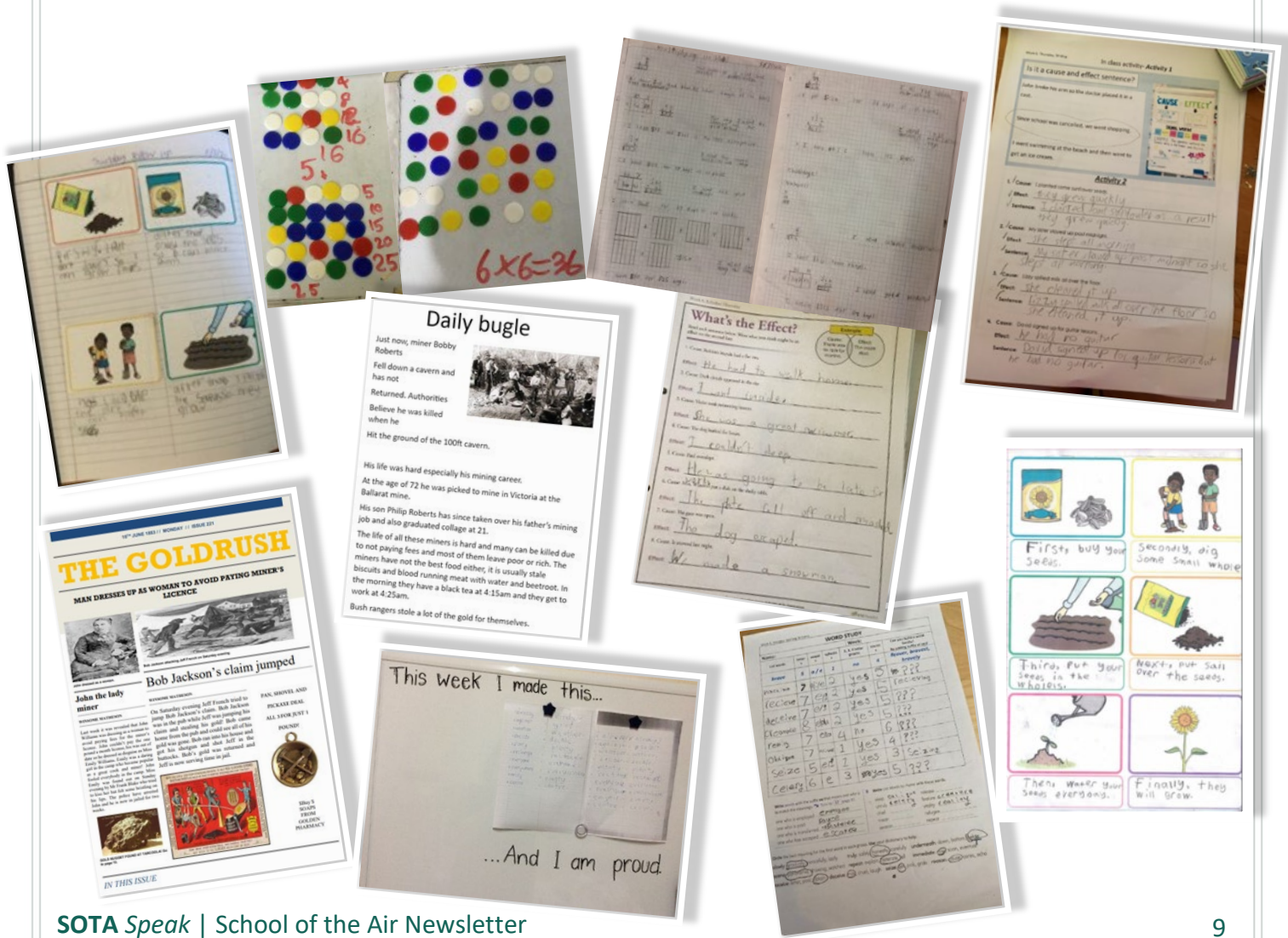
# Miss Tennessee's and Ms C's Year 4/5

In English we have been focusing on using a variety of different language features. Firstly, identifying them within texts and then using them. Two of our focuses has been on using text connectives such as firstly, additionally, finally and including complex sentences. In Maths, we have been busy learning different strategies to help us solve multiplication and division problems.

In History, Year 4s have exploring the reasons why the First Fleet colonised/invaded Australia. We investigated issues like the Industrial Revolution. Students were also required to write a Historical Narrative from the perspective of a child on board the First Fleet.

In Science, Year 4s, have continued to explore forces focusing closely on magnetism. We looked at the Mag-lev train and how magnets are used to push the train to high speeds. Next, students will apply their knowledge of forces to known sports.

In History, Year 5 students have been learning about the Australian Gold Rush and the Eureka Stockade. We are currently researching a person involved in the Gold Rush and learning about their experiences. In Science, we have been doing lots of experiments to explore how reflection and refraction work.



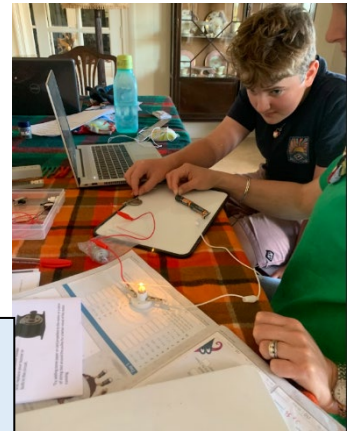


# Ms Mel's Year 6



Keep an eye out for Jacob's poster next time you visit SOTA – he may even persuade you to buy some more

Sam has experimented with electric circuits and tested the conductivity of different materials.



### African 'Adumu'

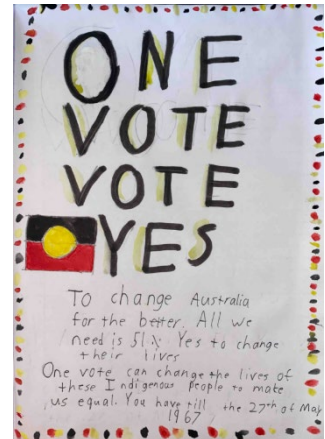
The African 'Adumu' dance, or 'Maasai dance,' is a dance from Tanzania and Kenya. According to the website 'All Around this World.com,' the Maasai dance is an important part of growing into an adult. Adumu is a part of some rituals that make the EUONTO, a ceremony in which the Maasai become fully adults in the community.

In this dance the Maasai warriors demonstrate their famous 'jumping dance.' The men walk out into the centre of the ring one at a time, and jump high into the air, without their heels touching the ground. They jump to the rhythm of the music, and their body must be kept as straight as possible.

In preparation for the dance, they put ochre on their bodies. They wear intricate bead work, and colourful necklaces and shawls.

Mothers sing about the amount of courage their sons have, and the girls sing to encourage their favourite warrior.

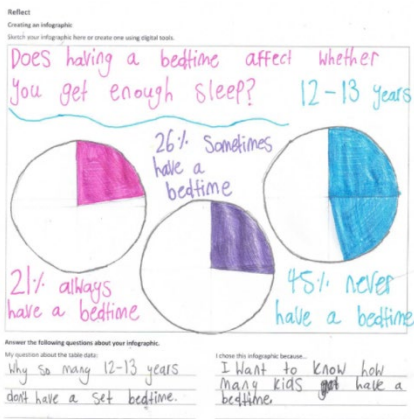
Stella researched the Adumu dance which is a tradition dance from Tanzania and Kenya. She even had a go at the dance which involved a whole lot of jumping!



Aurelia put on her journalist cap and wrote an imaginative recount of the events that took place in Australia on the 1st of January 1901.

### Electrical Hazards In the House

1. Power points can cause fires if left on especially if they are near something flammable. So make sure all unused power points are turned off.
2. Microwaves have to be kept in good condition because they use electricity to heat up food. They are full of wires and if one was exposed it could make a fire.
3. Heaters are one of the most common electrical hazards. People leave clothes and towels near them to dry but all flammables should be kept away from heaters.
4. Fires are very common in houses especially farms in winter and newspaper is used to light them and should be stored away from fires.



Ruby looked at some sleep data and made an infographic showing her results.

Beau created a safety poster detailing some important information to keep safe around electricity.



Ryder's vibrant SOTA uniforms poster with persuasive devices will most definitely attract

# Catch Up Week



# William Creek Gymkhana

*“We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.”*

– Thornton Wilder

As many of you would know by now, there’s lots that I like about SOTA. Pitter patter of students in the SOTA building, the jubilant energy on the first day of face-to-face events, students singing the school song with pride, resourceful ways that parents and supervisors secure funding and sponsors, teacher feedback of student progress, SOTA community’s capacity to come together and overcome various challenges, and most recently, witnessing the deft skills of SOTA students at William Creek Gymkhana!

Magenta was in her element, riding with absolute confidence but not a whiff of arrogance. Lucy, as graceful and self-assured on her horse, as she was at her stand selling her handcrafted accessories. George, fearless and tireless, jumped from horse to bike as naturally as he moved his right and left foot. Jack, sat gleefully on his horse as his dad and mum took turns to lead him in the races.

What I also witnessed was a warm community coming together to celebrate their camaraderie, skills, trade and people. As always, plenty of sponsors, and volunteers happily gave their time to support the event which made it a success. SOTA teachers: Megan, Sophia and Tennessee, and Principal, Julie made their way to William Creek too. What a special surprise it was for students to see their teachers at one of their favourite social events! What a special treat it was for Julie and SOTA teachers too.

Thank you to the Williams’ family for your warm welcome to your special event. We had a wonderful time, and stocked more great memories of SOTA.





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