# SOTA Speak

School of the Air Newsletter

**May 2023** Term 2

## Message from the Head of Campus

Term 2 started with much excitement and in a blink of an eye, we are now in week 3! In the short time, we have accomplished a couple of goals.

Firstly, I congratulate all the Canberra campers and the support team for a successful camp. The students embraced their Canberra camp adventure with enthusiasm, and for some overcame their fears of flying and spending a week away from the comfort of their families. They were keen to explore and learn, and behaved splendidly throughout camp. Their teachers, Ms Mel and Miss Kaur did a fantastic job supervising and guiding them, as did jovial Josie who helped with supervising the students too. The parents were marvellous in organising their children for camp, particularly in managing the logistic challenge of driving their children to and from the airport. The success of the camp epitomises the best of SOTA community - when we come together and be the best for each other.

Secondly, I want to extend our congratulations to Miss Morley who found out recently that she has been awarded a University Medal for outstanding academic achievement and performance in the final professional placement in the Master of Teaching (Primary) in University of South Australia. My colleagues and I are so pleased for Miss Morley and know that her dedication to student learning far exceeds her scholastic achievements.

In addition to Miss Morley's achievement, I also congratulate our students, Anakin and Lily who participated in the recent Northern SAPSASA cross country trials and won fastest boy and girl of their respective age groups. Both students also qualified for the state championships. Well done, Anakin and Lily!

Finally, I am excited to introduce our new oral reading fluency program. We have been working with OAC speech pathologist to develop this program to enhance reading. Research shows improving fluency can make a significant impact on comprehension. Daily practice of oral fluency adds to the comprehension strategy, Question-and-Answer Response (QAR) that teachers have been gradually implementing across the year levels. With regard to developing oral reading fluency, we encourage parents to get involved by asking their children to read aloud to them, as well praise them for their reading performance.

Ahead of us, we have a Student Free Day on Tuesday, June 13 whereby teachers will be participating in professional development on site, in collaboration with colleagues at Marden campus.

In 6 weeks' time, we'll come together in the lovely El Shaddai campsite for an adventurous camp and an excursion to Monarto Zoo. We hope to see all of you to wrap up the term together.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for all that you do to make our school a truly special place.

Best wishes
Lai Kuan Lim

# Events

Public Holiday: **12 June**

Student Free Day: **13 June**

Camp: **3-7 July**

Mini Schools: **25 - 29 September**

Get Together: **8 - 9 December**

# Student Free Days

June 13th

**August 7th** (correction from July 7th)

# 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**

CGC: Week 4 (T2) Wednesday 24 May.

OPFA: Week 7 (T2) Wednesday 14 June.

OPFA/CGC would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who helped make the Canberra trip the roaring success that it was. The kids have not stopped talking about the adventures and fun they had, and we know how kids are pretty honest creatures so I'd say we take their word for it. A lot of work went into organising the Canberra trip and the extra hours from those that sourced funding, planned activities and helped out has not gone unnoticed. So from us to you, thank you.

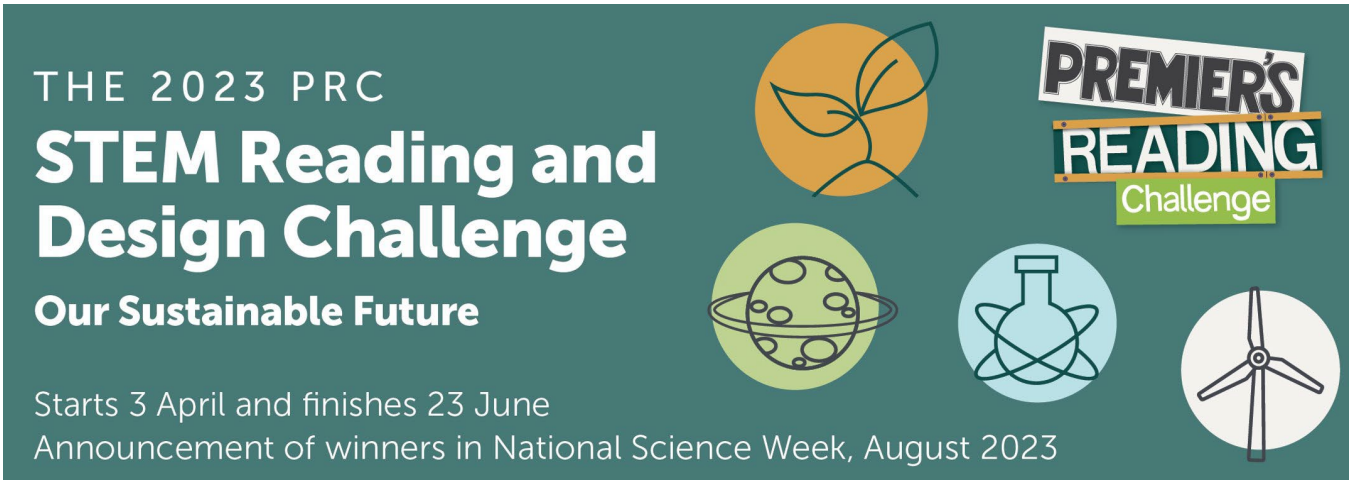
Leah - OPFA Chair
Petie - SOTA CGC Chair

# Library News

Term 2 is full of exciting things in the library. In the first week, we had some SOTA students – George, Jack and Clem come in and for school in the library. It was so exciting having them visit us. And here they are telling you about the big week 4 event – National Simultaneous Storytime, where everyone around Australia reads the same book at the same time on the same day. This year the book is The Speedy Sloth by Rebecca Young. Join us week 4 on Wednesday!

This year, I signed SOTA up with Author Pen Pals, and we have been assigned Amy Adeney. In term 1, she wrote us a letter and sent some bookmarks which I will send out to students. In week 5, we will have a meet and greet and then receive letters again in term 3 and 4.

# STEM Challenge




## Age Category Projects

**R-2: Create** — Draw a picture in response to the PRC book you have read.

**3-5: Invent** — Plan an invention (description, drawing) inspired by your PRC reading.

**6-9: Design** — Design a STEM poster, related to your PRC reading, to inspire interest in science-related fields.

**Mature: Innovate** — Create an infographic to illustrate how you would solve a problem you have read about using STEM.

# 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)

We look forward to seeing your entries.
Zoe Elliott – Your Library Ninja

# SOTA Book Club

Calling for more book reviews!

Here are two book recommendations by our Learning Leaders:

Title: Shine Mountain
Author: Julie Hunt
Reviewer: Stella, Year 7

What it's about: Shine Mountain is about a girl called Ellie who finds a magical button box that causes destruction everywhere it goes. She has to stop it from getting into the wrong hands and then go to the land where it was made to destroy it. This is a book about family, friends, courage and resilience.
Rating: 9 out of 10 stars, for strong readers of any age

Title: Just Binnie
Author: Dick King Smith
Reviewer: Winsome, Year 6
Age recommendation: 10 and up

What's it 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 go to war and the vicar as well.

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

# SOTA Face painting

Miss Emma demonstrated her face painting skills on the last day of Term 1. We were all very impressed with her artistic talent.

## Term 1 Week 11

**Miss Emma:**

Remy for always trying her best on her follow up tasks.

**Miss Jo:**

Alex for using her Growth Mindset and setting herself new learning goals for Term 2. Also for her epic performance in Drama. Way to go Alex!

**Miss Morley:**

Jayden for working cooperatively in group activities and working hard on his Science assessment.

**Miss Kaur:**

Micah for actively participating in WebEx discussions and working hard on all learning tasks.

**Ms Mel:**

Stella for writing thoughtful and detailed responses when completing your reading comprehension activities this term.

## Term 2 Week 2

**Miss Emma:**

Eli for showing perseverance when dealing with technology issues and for always being happy to share in class.

**Miss Jo:**

Charlie for taking constructive feedback on board and working hard at increasing her focus. Way to go Charlie!

**Miss Morley:**

Jase has been awarded this certificate for amazing effort and commitment in all subjects in the first two weeks of Term 2.

**Miss Kaur:**

Mareike for her outstanding participation throughout the Canberra tour; she asked many engaging questions and was always first to put her hand up when the guides were calling for volunteers.

**Ms Mel:**

Stella for her diligence and commitment to working towards achieving her reading goal.

# Congratulations Miss Morley

Miss Morley enjoys celebrating her student success far more than her own, so this photo was given to SOTA Speak with some cajoling!

*2023 university medal recipient for excellent performance in Master of Teaching (Primary) and final professional experience.*

# Introducing Miss Zoe

Hi there learners and families. My name is Miss Zoe, Zoe Abinett. I will be helping out Miss Jo every Wednesday with her Year 1 and 2 class. I have been teaching for around 14 years and have taught in many different schools around Adelaide. I started teaching at Open Access College last year. I'm excited to begin at SOTA.

I am a passionate and enthusiastic teacher and value young people's natural curiosity, creativity, imagination and individuality. As a teacher I support children to become active, confident and independent learners through fun and engaging learning experiences.

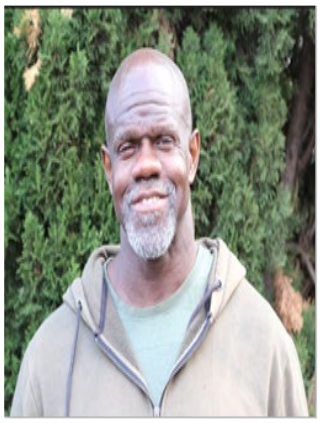
I enjoy camping, cooking, cycling, going to the beach, hanging out with my husband, children and my 2 rabbits, watching my children play sport and catching up with friends. My absolute favourite type of food is Mexican. I love reading and watching movies too. I live in Seacliff, a beachside suburb in Adelaide.

# Introducing Jason – Learning Support

My name is Jason Hubert. I'm an SSO and a new member of the Primary Intervention Team. My first day at Open Access College was May the 1st. Thank you for making me feel welcome!

I am from Momence, Illinois and have lived here in Adelaide for approximately 16 years with my wife and three children (our dog is the third child).

My role is to provide learning support to students. I look forward to working with SOTA staff, students and parents in this endeavor!



# Miss Megan's Home Visits

Hello again everyone. After our Term 1 break it has been so nice to begin making more Itinerant visits and working with the children. In Week 1 I travelled up to Wintinna Station where the magic of learning was very much evident and together, we had full days of schoolwork, tea parties, dancing competition, tennis and long country walks. In Week 2 I visited Sturt Vale Station for the first time. The time went too quickly but while I was there, I was very impressed by fantastic, reading, writing, drawing and athletic skills.

Those skills will really help the Dingo team on Sports Day!

Have fun with your learning everyone, Miss Megan

# Mr Myles's Visit

Hello SOTA students, supervisors and families. 😊

I hope you are all having fun and learning.

I have begun this term's adventure by visiting three different families at Wooltana, the Twins and Mt Sarah. I have had a great time visiting everyone and supporting all the different SOTA families and students in their learning journeys and also learning so much myself about station life, dirt bikes, horses and muscle cars.

Some highlights have been: counting cattle tags with Roy, seeing Lawson's new bike and counting zebras with Emmett.

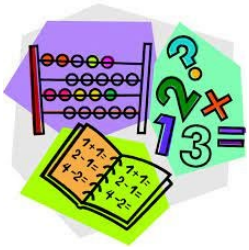
In the coming weeks I will also be visiting Dulkaninna and Wilgena Stations and I am looking forward to meeting and supporting everyone there. 😊

# Miss Emma - Term 2 Reception

Welcome to Term 2! I am so excited to continue our learning journey as class this term!

## English

In English this term we will be continuing to use Sounds-Write as our phonics program to support students with their reading and spelling. Students will listen to texts, interact with others and create short spoken and written texts including recounting personal experiences and retelling stories. They will read, view and comprehend texts, making connections between characters, settings and events to their own personal experiences.
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 a deep understanding of the numbers 1-10. They will develop a sense of quantity and be able to represent each quantity in a different way. Students will explore the part-part-whole relationship of each number. Students will also develop an understanding of measurement: identifying attributes of mass, capacity, length and duration of objects or events.

## The Arts: Visual Arts

Colours of the Rainbow- In this unit students will learn the order of the rainbow (ROYGBIV). Students will learn primary and secondary colours and how these can be split into warm and cool colours. Students will explore the works of Wassily Kandinsky, Yayoi Kusama and Tyrown Waigana and create artworks inspired by them.

## HASS:

Students will investigate places: their place, different places, special places and places they belong to. They will learn about how and why people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples look after places. They will also look at how maps can represent the location of places.

## Digital Technology:

Students will develop coding strategies and be able to use algorithms to create simple movements. Students will be able to use words like repeat, forward, left, right, north, south, east, west to develop an algorithm for their classmates to follow.

Miss Emma

# Miss Jo – Term 2 Year 1/2

Welcome back!

I hope you are all fully recharged and ready to go for another super term of learning. Now that we have the foundations in place I will be looking to support and stretch students with their individual learning goals. I hope you too will be able to enjoy their individual successes this term. ☺

This term we are lucky to have Ms Zoe who will be taking Digital Technologies and Visual Arts on Wednesday's this term. Talk about a great midweek lesson line up!

As always, any questions, feel free to email.

Hope to see lots of you at camp this term. ☺

Cheers, Jo

## English-

***Oral Language***- Students will continue to 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***- We will be continuing our work using the QAR (Question-Answer Relationship) comprehension strategy to build students comprehension skills.

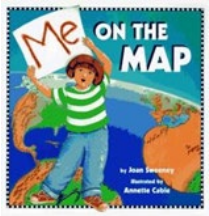
***Handwriting***- Students will complete a handwriting task each week. During this time it is important to focus on correct posture, grip, formation and letter size and shape.

***Writing***- This term we will have a focus on Retell and Sentence Structure using the Department English Units of work. Students will be exposed to a range of different recounts and narratives and explore some of the different ways in which language conventions can be used to improve their writing.

**Maths** –This term students will be working on addition and subtraction skills as well as fractions and time using the Department Maths Units. 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 5-9)- This term we will be covering Physical Sciences. The focus will be on investigating how different materials can be changed. Students will be involved in sequenced investigations involving predicting, observing, recording and then analysing and comparing results.

**Geography** (Weeks 1-4) In the first half of the term students will continue to pose questions about the world around them. They will continue to investigate how places got their names and how we are connected to different places.




**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.

**Digital Technologies – with Ms Zoe**

We will be learning about digital systems and how they help us in our everyday lives. We will learn all about hardware, software, design a digital system and create our own program.

**Visual Arts – with Ms Zoe**

In Visual Arts students will participate in a range of art making. They will practise their fine motor skills including drawing, etching, printing, collaging and painting. Using the fundamental visual conventions of colour, texture, line, space and shape, students will participate in a diverse range of art experiences. We will begin with a self portrait and create an artwork each week.

Looking forward to a great term! Cheers, Miss Zoe.

# Miss Morley – Term 2 Year 3/4

Dear students and families,

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and are looking forward to beginning our new learning. This term we will begin with a shared theme of Indigenous Perspectives, exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, storytelling, and art.

## English

This term in English we will be learning about different forms of storytelling by exploring oral, visual, and written Aboriginal Dreaming stories and other traditional stories from around the world. Students will examine how and why traditional stories are shared and compare the similarities and differences between stories from multiple cultures.

Students will also practise their own oral storytelling through class activities and our new weekly reading fluency program, as well as continue to develop their grammar and spelling skills through the Grammar Rules and Soundwaves programs.

In the latter half of the term, we will be exploring visual illustrations in a combined English-Art unit to learn about visual storytelling.

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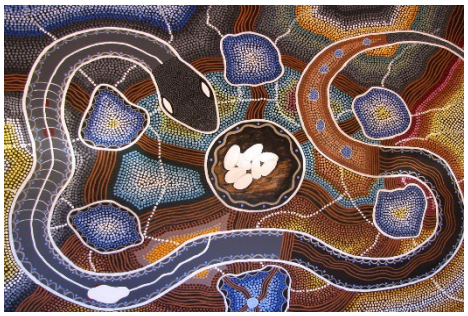
## The Arts

This term we will be focusing on the Arts strand: Visual Arts. In the first half of the term, we will be examining Aboriginal artworks and artists as well as learning drawing, painting, and mixed media art techniques.

In the second half of the term, we will be exploring visual illustrations in a combined English-Art unit to learn about visual storytelling. Students will identify visual techniques used to tell a story in the text Windows by Jeanne Baker and create their own artworks inspired by their own homes.



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## HASS

In HASS this term we will be learning about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history of Australia before, during, and after European settlement. Students will explore traditional Aboriginal lifestyles, beliefs, and cultures, and how they were impacted by European arrival.

This topic will connect to our learning in English on Aboriginal Dreamtime stories, and Aboriginal artworks in the Arts to explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives.

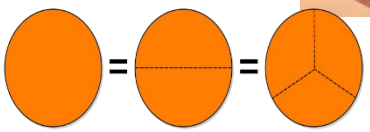
## Science

This term we will be exploring biological science by investigating plants and animals around us. We will be learning about the life cycles and survival needs of living things through the framework of Eucalyptus trees in class. Students will also be conducting an ongoing observation and investigation throughout the term into the living things in their own gardens or backyards.

## Mathematics

In Mathematics we will be building our understanding of fractions, patterns, and financial mathematics. Students will explore how these concepts relate to last term's learning on numbers and how they connect to real-world situations.

Students will also be continuing with the Think Mental resource to support their mathematical development with daily practice.



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## Digital Technologies

This term we will swap CPC for Digital Technologies. Students will start by learning about types of digital systems and how data is represented.

In the second half of the term, we will explore algorithms and coding.

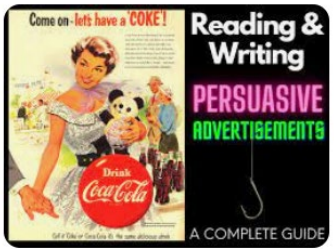
# Miss Kaur – Term 2 Year 5/6

Hello everyone and welcome back to term 2.

I'm all charged up and super excited to start the term. Can't wait to see all the learning activities year 5/6 superstars will do this term.

Let's have a look at what we are doing for Term 2 2023:

## English




In English, students will read, view, and listen to advertisements in print and digital media. They will understand how text features and language combine to create a persuasive effect. They will create their own digital multimodal advertisement and explain their creative choices.

Following on from last term, students will use the comprehension, grammar, and spelling resources to complete weekly units to develop their skills in these areas.

## Maths

In Maths, students will explore the connections between fractions, decimals, and percentages. They will use critical and creative thinking to relate familiar fractions with decimals and percentages. Students will order and compare numbers with decimal parts. They will apply known strategies of addition and subtraction to seek solutions.

The students will continue to work on their Maths Mentals worksheets to practise various maths concepts.

## HASS: Civics and Citizenship

This term, students will extend their understanding of the concept of civics and citizenship. They will explore the meanings of rights and responsibilities and how these connect to our lives as citizens living in Australia. Their learning will be extended to encompass global citizenship and the meaning of, and characteristics and qualities demonstrated by people who truly act as global citizens as part of a global community. Students will refine their understanding of these concepts by working collaboratively, sharing connections, research, and reflection.

## Science

In Science, students will compare and classify different types of observable changes to materials and explore how changes can be classified in different ways. They will explain how scientific knowledge helps us to solve problems and inform decisions and identify historical and cultural contributions. Students will investigate Aboriginal peoples' knowledge of reversible processes, such as the application of adhesives. Students will follow procedures to develop investigable questions and design investigations into simple cause-and-effect relationships.

## Digital Technologies

In Digital Technologies, students will learn to identify networks and systems. They will learn to identify the process through which information is delivered to digital devices through networks and systems. Students will understand that devices are made up of many important component parts and they will identify and explain the function of the major component parts in a digital system.

## Visual arts and painting techniques

This term we will be exploring visual art and painting techniques with the amazing Ms. Mel.

Let's continue our learning journey in term 2!

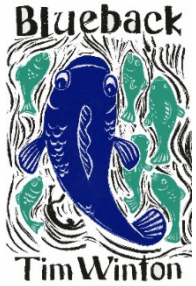
Best wishes,

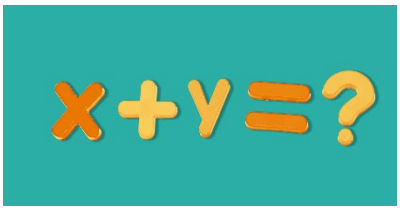
Miss Kaur

# Ms Mel – Term 2 Year 7

## English

This term in English we will be reading the Australian novel Blueback by Tim Winton. Students will practise their reading comprehension skills to study aspects of the text and examine how literary devices and visual features can shape meaning. Students will also explore how the ideas in the novel are portrayed throughout storyline and how the text features are influenced by the authors choices.



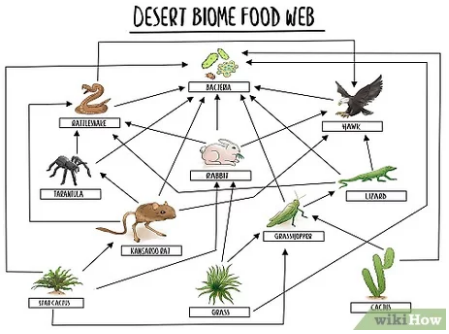




## Mathematics

This term in Mathematics we will finish our fractions topic, which has been carried over from last term. Students will then move onto learning about decimals (multiplying and dividing), percentages (in the real world) and ratios and rates. Before starting to explore Algebra at the end of the term.

## Humanities

After visiting Canberra in week 1 of this term we will continue to learn about Australia's system of government and the principles and features of our legal system. Students will examine the characteristics of Australian democracy and understand how this relates to the uncoming referendum. Students will also analyse information and identify perspectives and challenges relating to poitical, legal and civic issues.




## Science

In Science this term students will investigate the role of classification in ordering and organising the diversity of life on Earth. Students will use models, such as food webs, to represent matter and energy flow in ecosystems and predict the impact of the environment on plant and animal populations.

## CPC / HPE

This term in HPE we will be focusing on the physical education aspect of the subject. Students will propose and evaluate strategies designed to achieve personal health, fitness and wellbeing outcomes. Students will apply and transfer movement skills and concepts across a range of situations, as well as implement and evaluate the effectiveness of movement strategies in relation to their fitness goals.

# PACER – Parliament and Civics Education Rebate

Students from our school have recently undertaken, an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding (depending on distanced travelled) of Zone 3- $90.00 (8 Students), Zone 4- $150.00 (7 students) and Zone 5 - $300.00 (1 student) under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

# 5-7 Canberra Camp

On Tuesday the years 5, 6 & 7 students embarked on a tour of MoAD, the Museum of Australian Democracy (located at Old Parliament House) for an hour with their teachers. The tour started with a talk about the museum's rules. Afterwards the students paired up to play an interactive game/ hunt where they had to answer questions

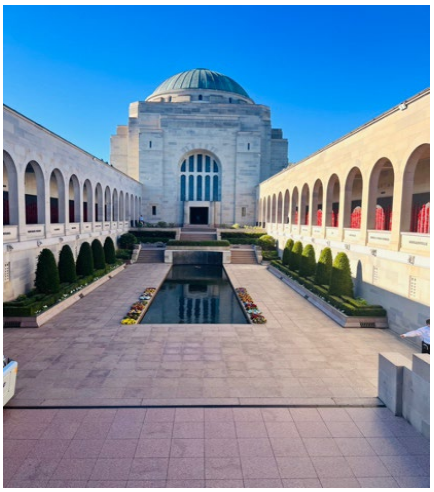
about democracy or past prime ministers. When they answered the questions, they moved on to the next screen somewhere around the room. When time ended, everyone sat down to talk about publicity banners on the wall and what they thought they meant. After the talk, the students followed their tour guide through the 100-year-old entrance made of beautiful marble to the Senate (the red room). Everyone was seated in comfy maroon-coloured chairs where the old Government and Opposition parties used to sit. The students listened to the talk about the Senate and answered questions before the tour ended and gave a big thank you to the guide. I loved MOAD! It was really cool how some places inside are still kept in a particular place in time and I love the beauty of the place.

One of my favourite parts of the Canberra trip was visiting Parliament House. At the start we saw the LEGO Parliament House which was really cool! They gave us frozen yogurts to eat until our lovely tour guide arrived. First, she took us to the House of Representatives, where the representatives think up new laws and ideas. The House of Reps is also commonly known as the Green Room. After that, we had a short walk to the Senate, where the senators decide whether the laws and ideas should go ahead. The Senate is also commonly known as the Red Room. Our visit ended with a short role play. I enjoyed this visit because I love learning about how our country is run.

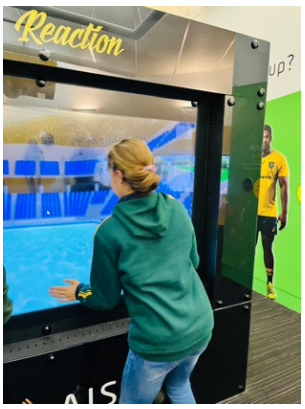
On Thursday the 4th of May, SOTA year 5,6 and 7 classes went to visit Questacon, an educational science place in Canberra. We travelled to Questacon to learn, explore and play with science. Questacon had many interactive games and displays to help kids and adults use science in fun ways. Questacon also has a gift shop that is filled with lots of fun toys. I enjoyed Questacon because I learnt about natural disasters.

On Friday the 5th of May, SOTA students and teachers visited the Australian Mint which is located in Canberra. Our school visited the Mint to learn and see how Australian coins are made; we also learnt lots about the history of Australian coins. My friends and I found out that there are three robots that work in the factory. Their names are Robbie, Titan and Penny and they each have different jobs to do around the factory. I found out that 32 million coins are made per day at the Mint. I enjoyed visiting the Mint because it was interesting to see how and where all the Australian coins are made everyday!

When SOTA travelled to the Australian War Memorial on Friday 5th of May, we explored multiple areas of information on past wars Australia has been involved in. The tour guide told us all about famous Australian war heroes that earned the Victorian Cross during the two World Wars. We explored a range of different areas, exhibits and memorials around the museum. We got to see real war planes that had been restored and saw dioramas of ships, cars and famous war battles. My favourite part of the visit was seeing the Iroquois helicopter on display in the Vietnam war gallery.



My favourite thing about the Canberra trip was the Australian War Memorial. It was so interesting looking at all the names of the fallen soldiers. We all found surnames of soldiers who could have been our ancestors or maybe related to us. Looking at the artefacts was really interesting but also really sad to think of all the brave things the soldiers did.




The thing that I enjoyed most about going to Canberra was seeing my friends and going to all the excursions with them. One of my favourite excursions was going to the Questacon because of all their fun activities. There were so many cool things you could see like these funny mirrors that distort your reflection, making you very short or tall. Canberra was really fun because we got to go on so many excursions.

## Appreciation

On behalf of the Years 5-7 students, I wish to thank Miss Mel, Miss Kaur, Josie, Kristy and everyone who helped organise our Canberra trip. It was such an amazing experience! They were so helpful throughout our visit to Canberra! Thanks so much!

*Ruby, President, Student Council*