

SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



Nov/Dec 2020 Term 4

Message from the Head of Campus



Despite the uncertainty brought by CoVID, SOTA community is determined to get together. In the last two weeks, our program has changed several times to comply with CoVID restrictions, yet, the community continues to be constructively responsive to what CoVID throws at us. Can't use Westie, let's use the gym. Can't use the gym, let's use the Golf Club. Can't use the Golf Club, let's use Souths and Central conference room. Can't do that, let's use the amphitheatre. 60% chance of showers on Saturday? Oh, we shall dance in the rain. Rain is liquid gold for so many SOTA families, so it'll be a delight to end the school year with a shower of good luck from Mother Nature. SOTA is a 62 year old institution, thriving over six decades of technological, policy, and organisational changes....CoVID-19 can't rob us of our resourcefulness, resilience and optimism...at least not yet. SOTA is as nimble as a ninja.

A big thank you to everyone in SOTA community. We have supported each other over the year in so many ways. At the start of the school year, new staff and students were warmly inducted and supported in their new environment. The warm and generous support was extended to me as well, which was critical to the smooth transition of Heads of Campus. SOTA community has certainly injected zest to my professional purpose. As we come to the end of the school year, I am again impressed by the strength of the community in responding to the challenges of CoVID. We had more than 80% attendance in the emergency Get Together

meeting, and over 70% average response rate in all the Get Together polls. Not many schools can claim to have such a responsive school community. Thank you. SOTA community *rocks*.

My colleagues and I are so encouraged to see the personal growth in all SOTA students. With the generous encouragement by Ms Amanda, our Reception students are feeling comfortable and confident on Webex. Year 1 and 2 students are also growing in confidence and accuracy in their language skills as a consequence of Mr Clayton's high expectations. Ms Mini's nurturing and positive learning environment encouraged Year 3 and 4 students to speak up, and take responsibility for their learning. Upper primary students have too become more confident as a result of Mr Tanti's patience and persistence in encouraging student participation. The individualised care and support by Ms Lea, Ms Milly and MK also contributed to the growth that we see in our students.

As we head towards 2021, we bid farewell to SOTA families and staff. Our very best to our delightful graduates: Hayden, Isabel, Jess and Lily; students: Caleb, Seb, Willow, Indianna and Riley; govies: Maddie, Eileen, Jaquarra, Lacey, Tegan, Cadence, Jacqui and Tamlyn; families: Cooper, Gardner-Stephen, Hatcher, Haydon, and Wakefield; staff: Ms Mini and Ms Lea. Continue to do good with your strengths; we are proud of you, and we'll miss you.

Thank you for your efforts in making SOTA community vibrant and cohesive. We shall return in 2021 - united, determined and supportive in making our little school a wonderful place to learn and work.

Happy holidays!

Best wishes

Lai Kuan Lim



OPFA/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.

I can't believe this will be the last SOTA Speak of 2020! What a crazy year it's been for us all and all around Australia, people will be pleased to wave it goodbye. This year saw us miss a face to face event due to COVID but what we lacked in social encounters, we made up for in spirit with Arbury Park introducing us to Lai Kuan and School Experience Week taking us to Whyalla for the kids enjoyment and learning. History dictates that Get Together won't disappoint either but this year will look slightly different with the event being held over Friday and Saturday with nothing on the Sunday but the chance to shop up before Christmas. It was a majority vote when offered-with fitting everything in on the Saturday instead of having to stand in the sun on the Sunday (the gym can't be used due to restrictions). Let's hope next year our life goes back to normal and next year we don't have so many decisions to make!

A big congrats to Leisa Breeding who has taken on the role of chair for SOTA's OPFA committee and thank you to all those who have taken on positions for next year on both OPFA and CGC. Recognition must go to Kirsty Williams for her amazing effort as chair of OPFA for the last 3 years and all the hours she put in to help SOTA continue to grow.

As we prepare to farewell families and our 2020 year 7's, we also look forward to welcoming a new class of Reception and their vitality to bring about smiles and laughter in our new year. 2021 will bring about fresh faces at the SOTA office, new ideas and an energized beginning for our community so rest up during your summer holidays because next year promises to be a big one.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our wonderful SOTA community

Petie Rankin-Chair SOTA CGC



OPFA FUNDRAISING

A BIG THANK YOU TO SO MANY GENEROUS BUSINESSES IN DONATING TO OUR END OF YEAR AUCTION:

I contacted many businesses about donating to the end of year auction; the table below lists all the kind donations. All goods will be bundled into packages and be on offer to all. Get around these amazing businesses, like/share their Facebook pages, visit their stores, buy something from them or whatever you can to show we appreciate their support.

Donators	Goods
Amanda Brooks	\$145 unframed print
Barb Wire Belts	Belt/Collar (Valued \$60)
Co-Co Crazy	Goods Pack
Cox Rural Jamestown & Pastoral Panels	1 x Pastoral Panels Heavy Duty Goat Trap valued at \$250 2 x Pastoral Panels Heavy Duty 2200mm x 1350mm Goat Panels valued at \$120 each
Country Creations with Jem	X 10 Pieces of jewellery
Design My Hat	2 vouchers hats/bandanas
Eco Motel Port Augusta	2-night stay in a Deluxe King bedroom – value of \$260
Grant Sheds	\$250 Donation Wine pack
Jumbuck Pastoral	\$1000 Donation
Kent Saddlery	Book
LivSienne Port Augusta	\$190 Value of goods
Maggie Beer	x2 signed cookbooks
Majestic Apartments (Oasis)	Voucher two nights in a 2-bedroom apartment
McBrides	Centenary book & wine
Meg's bookshop (Port Pirie)	\$50 Voucher
Mud Hut Coober Pedy	Voucher valued at \$350
Mamma Lou's	\$20 voucher/gift basket
Oodnadatta Roadhouse	Accommodation voucher \$150
Out and About clothing	Bibs and voucher

Poinsettia Motel Port Augusta	4 nights shack accommodation @ Venus Bay
Port Lincoln Tourist Park	Cabin Voucher
Port Lincoln Glen Forest	Park Pass
Ranges Fodder Port Augusta	Toy Truck value \$50
Saltbush Surf	X3 \$20 vouchers
Senturion Steel Supplies	Farmer Packs
Skin Scents Port Augusta	\$100 voucher
Sepplefield Winery	Wine packs and cordial
Wilpena Pound	Accommodation Voucher
Wrights Air	\$250 Donation

ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU TO ALL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATED A TRUCKER CAP OR TWO TO OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS: TRUCKER CAPS FOR SALE @ GET-TOGETHER WEEKEND \$25 EACH

- Cat na Hat (Dulkaninna Station)
- Copley Cricket Club
- Copley Gymkhana
- Country Creations with Jem
- Country Trucker Caps
- Cowboy Roy Adventures
- Durham Downs Social Club
- Dusty Creek
- G-Four Brand
- KAPRC Glendambo Gymkhana
- Marree Sports Club
- Muster Clothing Co
- Nonning Progress Association
- One Day Performance Horses
- Oodnadatta Racing and Horse Sports
- Stockyard Arena Association
- William Creek Sporting Club
- Williams Cattle Company



MIXED CARD PACKS AVAILABLE @ \$15 PER PACK: Contact Hollie if you would like a pack.


CHEERS HOLLIE





DES GOVERNESS

Hi everyone, wow what a crazy and weird 2020 we have had. I have worked closely with a really good group of girls this year and I cannot thank them enough for all of their help and on going support. Despite the circumstances DES has had a few awesome fundraising ideas this year;

- The DES Thermomix Raffle, with the help of Jo from Martins Well! 152 tickets were sold and we had announced the winner of our raffle on the 17th of November via WebEx- Congratulations Catherine Shay!
- SOTA Feedback Stamps- DES had custom made stamps made up to go into every classroom in School of the Air, it consists of for check boxes indicating whether the student was independent, needed some assistance, needed constant support and whether they need extra help. This helps teachers know how their student is doing on each piece of work.




- DES Trucker Caps- High and Low profile truckers cap with the DES Logo and Quote! These caps are sold at \$25 dollars each and have been a hit.


- DES Ball- Black tie event to be held at Central Oval on the 12th of December in Port Augusta. Raffle and Merchandise will be available to purchase on the night! DJ "Choons & Moovz" will be entertainment. Beau and Bell of the ball will be announced on the night, hopefully covid restrictions are eased and we're able to go ahead with this fundraiser.
- Govie Handbook- This has been rewritten and printed by DES and it is an outline for new Govie's to have an overview on what happens within SOTA and help on how to have the best outcome within your classroom and students.

So even though this year has restricted mostly everything possible, I'm very proud of the DES girls for all the hard work and determination that has been put into our fundraisers this year.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Good luck to everyone who is moving on and fingers crossed Covid 19 does not stick around for the new year!



Thank you on behalf of the 2020 Distance Education Supervisors!



DES GOVERNESS

DES FUNDRAISING

Still available for sale

DES ear tags \$5.00

DES stubby holders \$10.00

DES 2020 Calendar \$10.00

DES Celebrating 60 years tea towels \$10.00

Library News

As we enter our festive season where school commitments wind down and celebrations and events wind up, I wanted to encourage students to stay sharp over the holidays whether they are spending time with family or just chilling at home. Use this time to be curious about the world around you. You might like to try some of these suggestions I've found or you may already have your own ideas. I have enjoyed getting to know you all and look forward to hearing about this you spent your summer.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe new year,

The library team

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/81768549474648708/>

SRC Art Competition

The end of year Get Together sees the annual SRC Art Competition been held again. The competition categories are:

- Photography
- Drawing/Painting
- Sculpture
- Collage
- Unclassified

You can submit as many entries as you want. Please bring your art work (**with your name and class clearly indicated**) to SOTA on **Friday, 4th December or Saturday (morning) 5th December** so that it could be displayed in the Outback Centre. There are sections for R-3/4-7/Adult entries.

If you have any questions please phone or email michael.kerin@openaccess.edu.au



SRC Disco

Thank you to many students who nominated interesting ideas for the Get Together Disco. Based on these ideas, SRC decided on the theme:

Movies: Lights, camera, action!

Imagine on the dance floor a happy riot of slick SOTA dancers dressed as perhaps Woody, Elsa, Babe, The Tracker, Frodo, Darth Vader, Hermione Granger, Professor Albus Dumbledore, oohhhh...maybe Ender Dragon?

See you and your quirky, silly, scary or funny costume on the dance floor: 5 December.

SOTA

The SOTA office will be closed from 18th December and re-opening on 11th January 2021

RICE



The RICE Office will be closed from the 24th December and re-opening on 11th January 2021.

Events

Get Together: 4 – 5 December

Important dates for 2021

- **Induction: Week 2, term 1 (1-5 Feb)**
 - **Camp: Week 11, term 1 (6 – 9 April)**
 - **SEW: Week 3, term 2 (10 – 14 May)**
 - **Mini-School: Week 10, term 3 (20 – 14 Sept)**
 - **Get Together: Week 9, term 4 (3-5 Dec)**
-



Technology Support

SOTA currently provides Fuji Xerox DocuPrint CM225FW printers to each SOTA family. This model has been in service since 2015 and has been discontinued by the manufacturer, making toner, parts and repair services difficult to source.

Therefore, beginning in 2021, we are planning to replace all Fuji Xerox DocuPrint CM225FW printers with newer Brother MFCL3770CDW printers of similar (but improved) functionality, though they are somewhat larger and significantly heavier. All necessary software, help sheets, supplies and support will be provided for the new model. We will attempt to provide these printers during Induction next year.

The Brother printer allows for duplex (two-sided) printing, copying and scanning, can print wirelessly and from mobile devices via Apple AirPrint, iPrint and Android Print, and the supplied toner cartridges can print up to 2400 pages before replacement.

Additionally, families are not required to return the old Fuji Xerox CM225FW printers. Each family can elect to retain their Fuji Xerox printer, ecologically dispose of the device themselves, or return the unit to SOTA for e-waste purposes.

Please note, families that choose to keep their Fuji Xerox printer while also acquiring a Brother printer will no longer receive any support for the former, and will need to acquire their own Fuji Xerox supplies going forward. I recommend checking out InkStation for bundles of compatible toner cartridges:

<https://www.inkstation.com.au/fuji-xerox-docuprint-cm225fw-toner-cartridges-prn-5616.html>

If your intention is to keep the Fuji Xerox printer, please let me know upon picking up your new Brother printer so that I may remove the old device from our asset management system. Due to supply restrictions relating to COVID-19, we may not be able to immediately provide a new printer to each family. As such, please do not dispose of your printer until at least the end of Induction week. Any remaining Brother printers can be sent out with Itinerant Teachers over the months following Induction.

Please do not hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions. See you at Get Together!



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

Ms Lea's Itinerant Visits

Hi everyone and welcome to the second half of Term 4 already! 😊

In Week 2, I caught up with Lily at Mt Elm. This was really special as it was her final IT visit before she starts at high school next year. I watched a truly amazing act of nature unfold during this visit too! Lily found a young ladybug in her garden, and we were able to watch it develop the traditional black spots and turn orange overnight – so incredible!

In Week 2, I travelled along the mighty Strzelecki Track once again to catch up with Shaquille. Miss Georgy was also there during my visit, and we all enjoyed so many games of UNO and a very entertaining sports day practise session together! In Week 4, I enjoyed another scenic trip to Taylorville to see Micah and Jayden. As usual, this was a fun-filled expedition and my LEGO, sports and pancake-eating skills were all certainly put through their paces!

Have a fabulous rest of your term everyone, and best of luck to each of our wonderful Year 7's who are preparing for their next adventure in education in Year 8 in 2021!



MK's Home Visits

Hi all

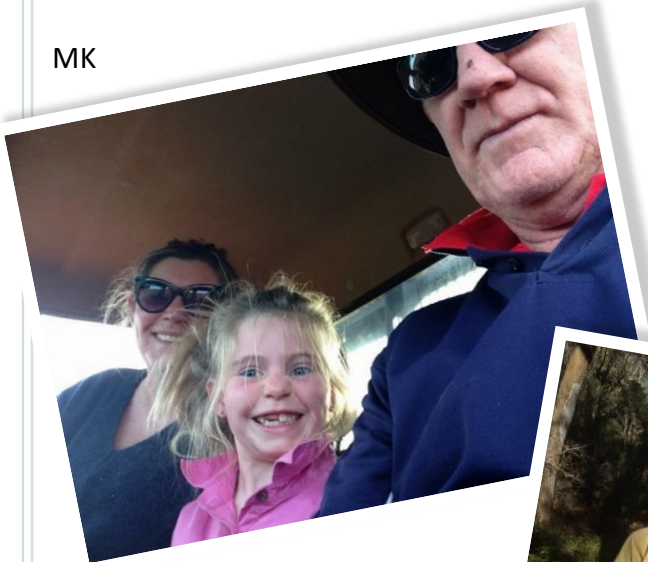
Term 4 Week 3 took me back to Thurlga and a visit to Bonnie. Having travelled the dirt road from Iron Knob many times it was great to see the countryside greening after some much needed rain. Bonnie and Katrina took me on a couple of excursions to the west of the property where we did a kangaroo count and checked out some waterholes and dams.

After some time out in Week 4 I headed to Nilpinna for Week 5. On Wednesday Logan and Magenta were joined in the classroom by Lucy and George. Week 6 saw a quick visit to Isabel and Caleb at Arkaroola. It is now official that Isabel is the undisputed chess champion of Arkaroola after defeating me (2 wins to 1) a lesson in playing chess patiently! The home-made long jump pit in an Arkaroola creek bed was put to very good use. Covid 19 put an end to our planned PD at Marden at the end of this week.

Week 7 was spent at Clifton Hills with Beau in spite of Covid 19 nearly putting an end to that plan. Plenty of schoolwork and a few games with Beau and Saxby kept us out of the heat for a while until it was time for sports day practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families I have visited this year. Thanks for your hospitality, conversations and of course meals.

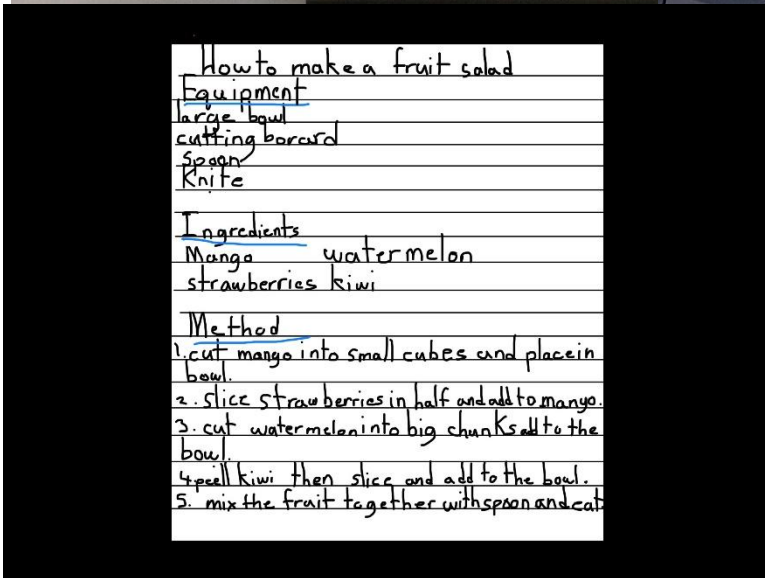
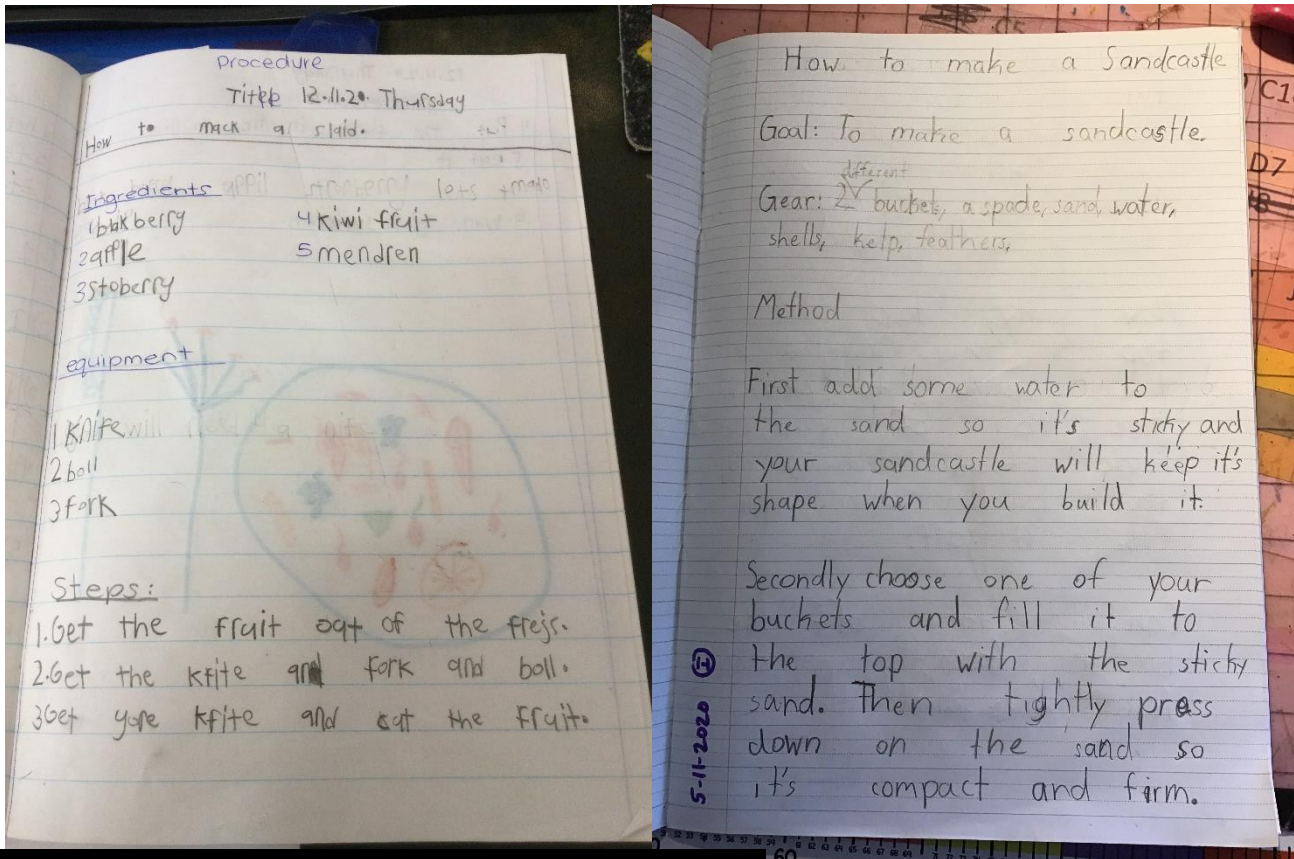
MK



Milly's Home Visits



This term we worked with clay and it was lovely to see how students turned a shapeless block into whimsical creatures or other characters. We started with a cylinder for the shoulders and a sphere for the head, after that we let our imagination take hold. Everyone had fantastic ideas and formed their sculptures with great attention to detail.

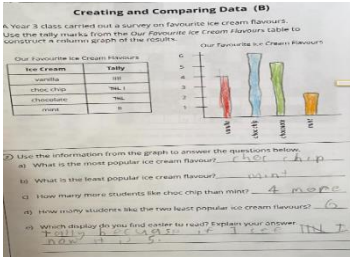


Mr Clayton's Years 1 & 2

This term the students have been working on their unit on procedural texts and have been a fantastic job! Both classes have taken on the information presented in class very well. They have been able to masterfully use the variety of language features that are typically used within procedural texts quite aptly. They have readily grasped and been able to construct their procedural texts correctly.



Miss Mini's Years 3 & 4



Year 3 Work Share

In Maths, we have been looking at creating and comparing data and then graphically representing the collected data.

In English, we have been looking at various aspects of procedure. As a result students were able to write their favourite recipes. They did an amazing job.

How to make strawberry sorbet

Ingredients

- 80grams raw sugar
- 600 grams frozen strawberries
- 1 egg white

1. Put sugar in the freonics (thermos) 10 secs (seconds) speed 9
2. Add the food (fruit) chop for 10 secs (seconds) speed 8
3. Put in bullitts (butterfly whisk) and egg white and mix for 30 secs speed 3
4. Eat it yum yum.

Chocolate experiment worksheet

Question: What happens when different sized pieces of chocolate are heated?

Hypothesis: The smaller the piece of chocolate, the longer it will take to melt.

Materials: 1 chocolate bar, 1 plate, 1 stopwatch, 1 pencil, 1 ruler, 1 scale.

Procedure: 1. Measure the following amounts of chocolate and place them on a plate. 2. Heat the chocolate in a microwave for 10 seconds. 3. Place the plate in a water bath. 4. Observe the chocolate as it melts. 5. Record the time taken for each piece to melt. 6. Repeat the experiment 10 times and record the results.

Observations:

Chocolate chips	Chocolate ring	Chocolate buttons
Time taken to melt: 2.10s	Time taken to melt: 2.70s	Time taken to melt: 5.10s
Description: They got soft.	Description: Nothing changed.	Description: They melted.

Conclusion and explanation: The smaller the chocolate, the shorter it takes to melt.

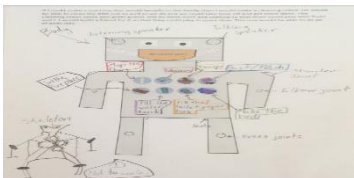
In Science, we have been looking at *Changes in matter*. Students conducted a number of experiments under the guidance of an adult and observed the impact of heating and cooling on different states of matter.

Year 4 Work Share

This term, in Science, we looked at how animals adapt to the environment in order to survive in difficult weather conditions.

ECHIDNA FEATURES

- Echidnas are an egg laying mammal.
- There are 2 species, the long beaked which live in New Guinea and the short beaked that are common in Australia.



Every Monday, we do creative writing on a range of topics. Students really enjoy free writing and have come up with the most amazing stories.

In Maths, we studied the concepts: data and probability. Students calculated the probability of winning a game based on the data they collected.

Chance Activity

Rock	Paper	Scissors
5	7	8

The first activity I chose was Rock, Paper, Scissors. I tested the chance by playing the game with my brother Lachie. Scissors was chosen and won the most times during the tournament. It was pretty even the whole way through until the end. Both Lachie and I both used scissors evenly, too.

The next chance activity I tried was throwing a crumpled up piece of paper in the bin. I threw the paper 22 times.

Paper in the bin	Miss
10	12

It was a very even test. At 20, it was 50% hit and 50% miss. I tried two more times and I missed both.

Pearl Bluebush

Pearl blue bush also called Maireana sechfolia

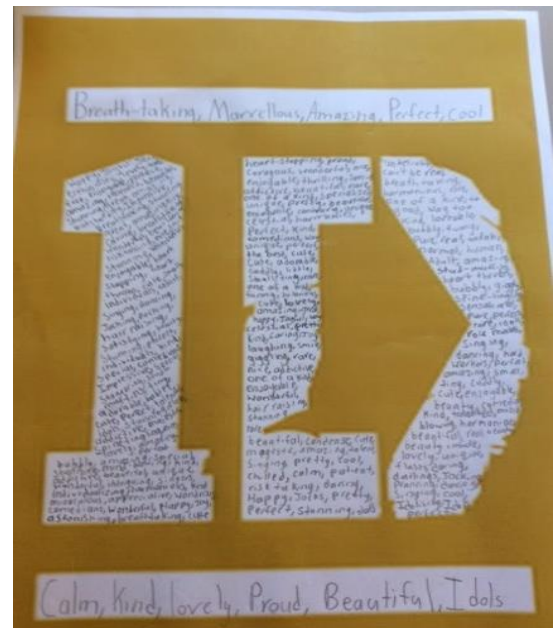
It is a compact bush which can grow to 1m high. It has blue petals on it and can live for 100 years.

It is very good surviving droughts and when it is dry it makes good food for animals when everything else has died.

In HASS, we have been looking at the *Importance of environment* and why we need to protect it. We investigated different plants and trees that are present in our surrounding areas and explored how they help in sustaining the wildlife and environment.

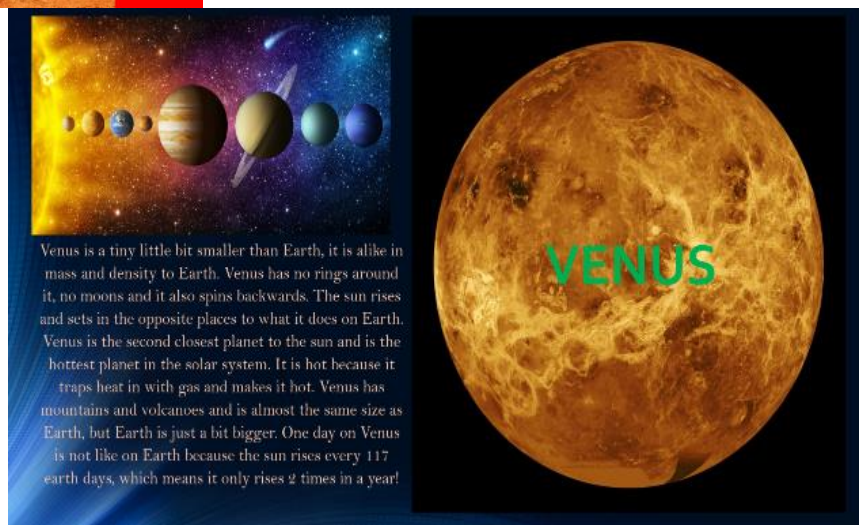
It has been very gratifying lately to see the students in both the Year 5/6 and Year 7 classes presenting their assignments, or even projects of their own invention, in different and engaging formats. We have also had the fun of competing in a number of student-made Kahoots!, with such topics as ‘the Australian government’, ‘the solar system’, ‘the novel *Holes*’, ‘the movie *Holes*’ and even occasionally ‘About Me’. Seen here are Elke’s ‘1D’ shape poem, a slide from Logan’s PowerPoint presentation ‘The Finke Desert Race’ and a slide from Hayden’s ‘Space’ PowerPoint.

Mr Tanti’s Years 5-7



What is the Finke?

The Finke is a desert race for motorbikes, cars and buggies. The race is based around Alice Springs and is just over 450kms long. It is held on the June long weekend.



Venus is a tiny little bit smaller than Earth, it is alike in mass and density to Earth. Venus has no rings around it, no moons and it also spins backwards. The sun rises and sets in the opposite places to what it does on Earth. Venus is the second closest planet to the sun and is the hottest planet in the solar system. It is hot because it traps heat in with gas and makes it hot. Venus has mountains and volcanoes and is almost the same size as Earth, but Earth is just a bit bigger. One day on Venus is not like on Earth because the sun rises every 117 earth days, which means it only rises 2 times in a year!



Term 4 Week 3

Reception: Jase for working hard in his schoolroom and producing many great pieces of work to share his learning.

Year 1: Shaquille for his efforts in decoding and blending in our guided reading lessons, even if the words are unfamiliar to him.

Year 2: Anakin for his diligent work ethic in our first unit for the term in mathematics, multiplication.

Year 3: Micah for working really hard and never giving up when the going gets tough.

Year 4: Stella for actively participating in Webex lesson and maintaining the decorum of the lesson always.

Year 5/6: Logan for doing his share of reading in class and for an informative PowerPoint presentation concerning the Finke Desert Race.

Year 7: Isabel for active and enthusiastic participation in all lessons, especially science lessons.

Term 4 Week 5

Reception: Lawson for taking his time with learning tasks which enables him to produce super neat writing and colouring.

Year 1: Elijah for actively participating in WebEx lessons throughout the lesson and maintaining a positive attitude towards his learning.

Year 2: Mareike for her endeavouring spirit and strong work ethic that continues to push her to do her best in all areas of her learning.

Year 3: Lucy for timely completion of her work and for working independently on her follow up tasks.

Year 4: Ryder for actively participating in Webex Lessons and for writing amazing creative stories.

Year 5/6: Willow for doing her share of reading in class and for regularly completing *Education Perfect* tasks.

Year 7: Jessica for achieving a Silver Award in the 2020 Education Perfect *Mathematics* Champion



Term 4 Week 7

Reception: Martin for his super work ethic and always challenging himself with his learning.

Year 1: Lara for her enthusiasm in all WebEx lessons and willingness to have a go, even when she is unsure of the answer.

Year 2: James for his fantastic and consistent work ethic throughout the year and his continued participation in all learning areas.

Year 3: Lily for her work ethics and for always challenging herself to outdo herself every time.

Year 4: Caleb for his work ethics and active participation in Webex lessons.

Year 5/6: Holly for presenting a variety quizzes for class, including an outstanding Kahoot! on the novel Holes

Elke for presenting a variety quizzes for class, including an outstanding Kahoot! on the movie Holes.

Year 7: Lily for active participation in WebEx lessons, including the reading of lesson slides.

Govie Tamlyn



I would like to publicly acknowledge our love and appreciation for this girl who has been part of our lives since the beginning of 2018. She has not only been an inspiration and role model for my children, but to many other families and students, and her passion for this position has turned into her becoming part of the fabric of our lives. We love you Tamlyn, and wish you all the very best.

Love,

Your crazy family at The Twins

Reflection on my SOTA Schooling

By Hayden

I started Reception at SOTA in 2013. My favourite things during my time at SOTA are going to all the face-to-face events, the year 6/7 Canberra trip and the different places for school camp. My favourite school camp was definitely at Port Lincoln because we got to do aquatics at Coffin Bay, played bubble soccer and went on a boat ride. I did RICE kindly with Jessica and Lily, and have been classmates and friends all through to year 7 so that makes it very special. Get-Togethers are always fun because we all get to catch up and just have a good time before saying goodbye for the holidays. I love doing school with School of the Air because it is such a different way to learn and people are really interested in how we do it so I am happy that I have got to experience school this way. I am going to Mansfield in Victoria next year to do year 8 with my cousins and then to Adelaide to do year 9 onwards.





As the year comes to an end, there is one special day that everyone is waiting for and it's almost here!

I wish nothing but happiness and joy to everyone involved with SOTA this Christmas.

Best of luck to everyone ending their SOTA journey. May the fat man in the red suit bring rain for all that need and of course spoils everyone after the crazy year that 2020 has been.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Also, a quick Thank You to everyone that has helped me grow and supported me through the crazy four years that I have been a part of this big community.

Best wishes, Tamlyn



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays



Merry Christmas From the Todmorden Schoolroom to everyone within the SOTA community, we hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas! Thank you to everyone for the amazing year that was had in very challenging times. All the best for the new year.

Cadence, PJ and Lisma.

