

SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



October 2020 Term 4

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

Here we are in Term 4: 5 weeks till SOTA community comes together again.

My colleagues and I are looking forward to hearing and seeing the excitement of our students at the Get Together. The occasional pitter patter of children's footsteps in SOTA building makes us smile, and injects energy to our work. Bring on the Wool show, Awards Night, Sports Day and Christmas celebration, we say!

Thank you to the twenty respondents who completed the 2021 Planning Survey. We are very much encouraged by the constructive support – helpful ideas, thoughtful feedback and kind encouragement. Over 60% of respondents indicated satisfaction with SOTA meeting their children's educational needs, and significantly too, no respondent indicated dissatisfaction. There is much for us to improve on, much for us to do, and I am confident, with the continuing support of families, many of the tasks ahead of us are achievable, and rewarding too. Whilst SOTA is not perfect, it is *our* school. We are making SOTA history together, so to give us the best chance of success, we must respond to the challenges and opportunities ahead of us as one strong community.

'If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'

SOTA community is strong, optimistic, thoughtful and agile. My colleagues and I felt a sense of warmth when students wished their teachers a happy World Teachers' Day on Monday's

assembly. The Rankin family was fortuitously on site with home-made cards and cupcakes for their teachers too! Jessica and Linda added even more cheers. I also felt the strength of SOTA community when I visited Martins Well station. Holly, Katie and Tilly demonstrate diligence in their schoolwork, and a strong sense of responsibility in looking after their environment. Unsurprisingly, they also put me to shame in a game of soccer. Emilee has so many reasons to be proud of them, as, do all SOTA parents of their children.



Best wishes

Lai Kuan Lim

EVENTS

Student Free Day: **20 November**

Get Together: **4 – 6 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)

MEETING NOTICE

Combined OPFA/CGC AGM

When: 25th November 2020

Directly after Week 7 OPFA meeting

All positions on OPFA are declared vacant
and await nominations.

7 positions on CGC available for nomination.

Role descriptions on the back pages.

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.

OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates

All meetings at 3:30pm on WebEx

OPFA: Week 3 (T4) Wednesday 28th October

CGC: Week 4 (T4) Wednesday 4th November

Well, term 4 is upon us and as we look toward the end of the year, we can take a moment to reflect on what a crazy year it has been. 2020 has seen the changing of roles, regular face to face events given a shake up and lots of new ideas and concepts for us all to think about. We are almost able to say 'we survived the year of crazy' so give yourself a pat on the back. Remember that get-together is an important social event for our kids so please help them get their creative hats on for the disco and start practising those sports activities! Petie.



Families and staff at SOTA would like to thank BHP and Oz Minerals for their commitment to provide funding to SOTA students and their families to attend face-to-face events.



OPEA 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 there 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 FUNDRAISING



DES GOVERNESS

Thermomix tickets are still available.



The prize winner will receive the new **Thermomix TM6** with standard accessories.

Ticket price: \$20.00 each

Total number of tickets: 200

Draw date: Raffle will be drawn when all tickets are sold.

Prize value: \$2269

Payments can be made by direct deposit to

ACCOUNT NAME: Open Access College Council

BSB: 105 069

Account: 278824640

Description: fr thermomix (then full name)

Please email banking receipt to finance.matters@openaccess.edu.au and jopthermo@outlook.com so that payments can be easily tracked. Type full name and thermomix

in the description. On the receipt you are emailing, please provide phone number.

Ticket numbers will be allocated once payment has been confirmed and a confirmation will be sent to the ticketholder via text message, messenger or email.

FUNDRAISER - Distance Education Supervisors- HIGH PROFILE MESH caps!

CAP PRICES: \$25.00 EACH

Available now



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 I write this piece for SOTA SPEAK, it is Bookweek, the 2020 theme is "Curious Creatures, Wild Minds" and entries for our various competitions are flowing in. I am so impressed with the way the students at SOTA embrace a challenge. We had an impressive amount of enthusiastic participants in both the Premiers Be Active Challenge and the Premiers Reading Challenge in term 3. As we are yet to finalise winners for the competitions, I have included some early Bookweek entries: Martin and Mareike, who have sent in illustrations of their creative creatures.



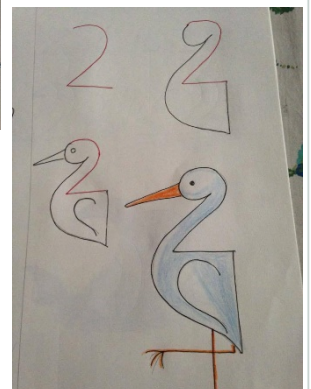
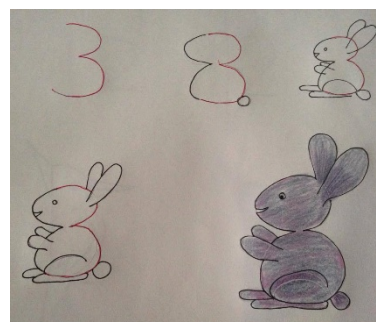
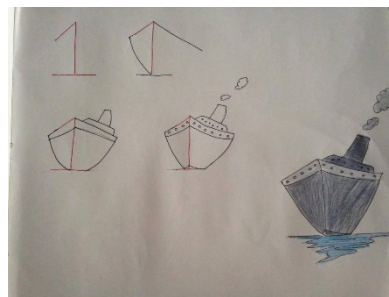
Here is an illustration entry from Aurelia. Students used a photo to draw or paint a portrait of a dog. It is a fantastic effort.



NAIDOC week will soon be upon us and it is fitting that two of the Bookweek winners were Indigenous books, *Baby Business* and *Young Dark Emu: A Truer History*. We have a great collection of Indigenous stories and this is a genre that is growing.

As the end of term 4 draws near, I look forward to visiting you all again to celebrate a year of learning and growth with students and their families. It has been an unusual year and given this is my first 12 months in the library manager role here at Open Access College, I want to thank you for being such motivated learners – it has been a pleasure facilitating the library sessions with you all. I also want to thank you for being patient with me as I navigate the world of online learning, as well as guide a staff of 7 through the turbulent COVID period. You are very fortunate to have such a well-resourced library and the library team are already planning for even greater things in 2021.

NUMBER DRAWING ACTIVITY



REVISE



REVISE visited 4 stations last term and as you read this, two of us are already on placements this term. It was great to see and hear the rain, I sincerely hope you all saw some benefit. If you are looking for a placement this term, please get in touch tellin44@bigpond.com or my mobile is 0437168796.

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, 4 December** so that it could be displayed in the Outback Centre. Itinerant Teachers may also be used as couriers to bring your entries in during the term. There are sections for R-3/4-7/Adult entries.

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

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

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.



MS LEA'S ITINERANT VISITS

Hi everyone and welcome to a busy and wonderful Term 4! ☺

It has certainly been a time of great joy recently due to heavy rain in many places, but also a time of ongoing visit reshuffling due to closed roads! A huge thank you to all for your patience, and for welcoming me at very short notice.

During the second half of Term 3, I really enjoyed catching up with Ada, Connor, Jase, Ruby and Nelson. I have started this term off with a visit to Lake Torrens to catch up with Jess. This visit was particularly special as we had to wait patiently for the Hookina Creek to go down not once, but twice so I could get through! ☺



MK'S HOME VISITS

Term 3 Week 9 took me 80km up the Birdsville Track to visit Cody, Lara and Dan at Dulkaninna. Once again local advice saw me depart for Leigh Creek late Thursday afternoon twenty-four hours before a very welcome rain hit the region.

Week 10 took me up to a now damper Arkaroola to catch up with Isabel and Caleb. The highway to Leigh Creek and the Copley road to Balcanooka were interesting due to the enormous number of debris strewn creek crossings that were encountered. Be careful if you ever play these two in chess. They are very good at it especially when Caleb got my queen very cheaply!!

Term 4 Week 1 saw me off to The Twins where once again there was some sloppy road to negotiate off the highway. However, seeing the greening up of the Stuart Highway was an absolute pleasure after many tough years. Hayden, Ryder, Eli and Lawson challenged me in many types of games.

Week 2 had a similar feeling as I journeyed through the Gawler Ranges to Kondoolka. Having travelled the dirt road from Iron Knob many times it was great to see it greening also. Mareike and Martin (plus mum and dad) took me on a couple of excursions to the north of the property.



MILLY'S HOME VISITS



Joining in with SOTA students' after school activities is always a lot of fun! Lucy took me for beautiful walks around the property and introduced me to her pets. Winsome and Sam loved playing the Superhero hide and seek game around the homestead. Katie designed a tricky board game for us to play and George taught me the theory of drafting cattle with his toys. The Just Dance session with Lawson, Eli, Ryder and Hayden was great entertainment.



MS AMANDA'S RECEPTION

The SOTA Reception Class has had a fantastic start to term 4.

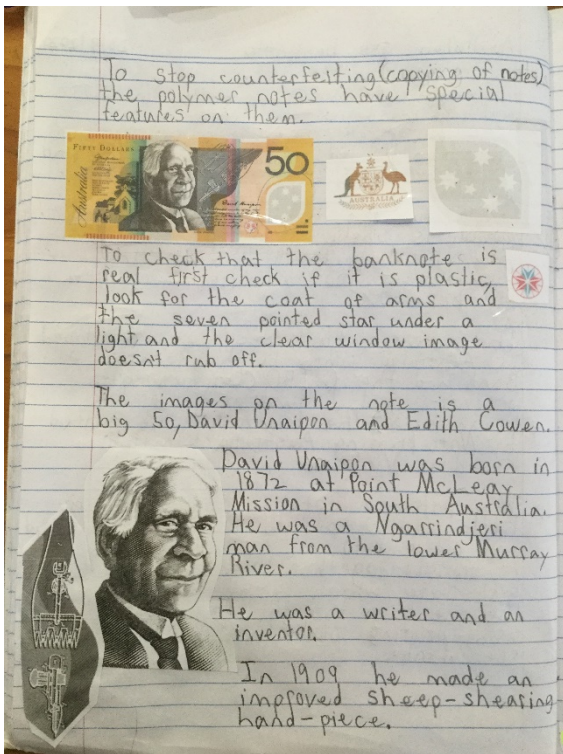
The Cooper family visited in week 2 and the Rankin family visited during week 3.

We have read the book Muddled up Farm then designed some muddled up animals of our own.

We have also worked hard on a math's investigation called The Wheels on the Bus. It involved early numeracy concepts relating to counting, sorting, collecting data and problem solving.

Another exciting thing we are learning about this term is alliteration.





Information on Snow Monkeys by Liarna

Introduction

Snow monkeys live in Japan's forests and snowy mountains.

Snow monkeys are primates.

Other mammal primates are apes, lemurs, monkeys and humans.

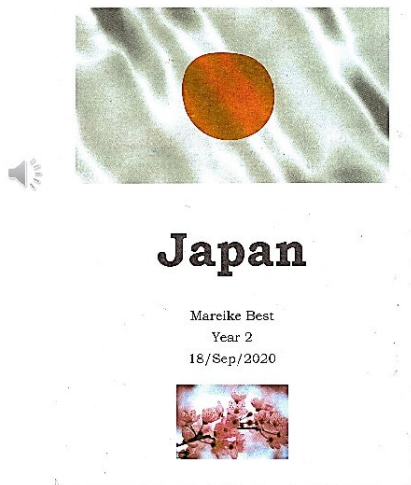
Looks like

Snow monkeys have very pink faces and pink bottoms. Their bodies are covered in grey and brown fur. Their thick furry coats helps them to stay warm. They are medium sized.

Diet

Snow monkeys eat seeds, roots, fruits, leaves, birds eggs, small mammals and bark.

page 1 of 2



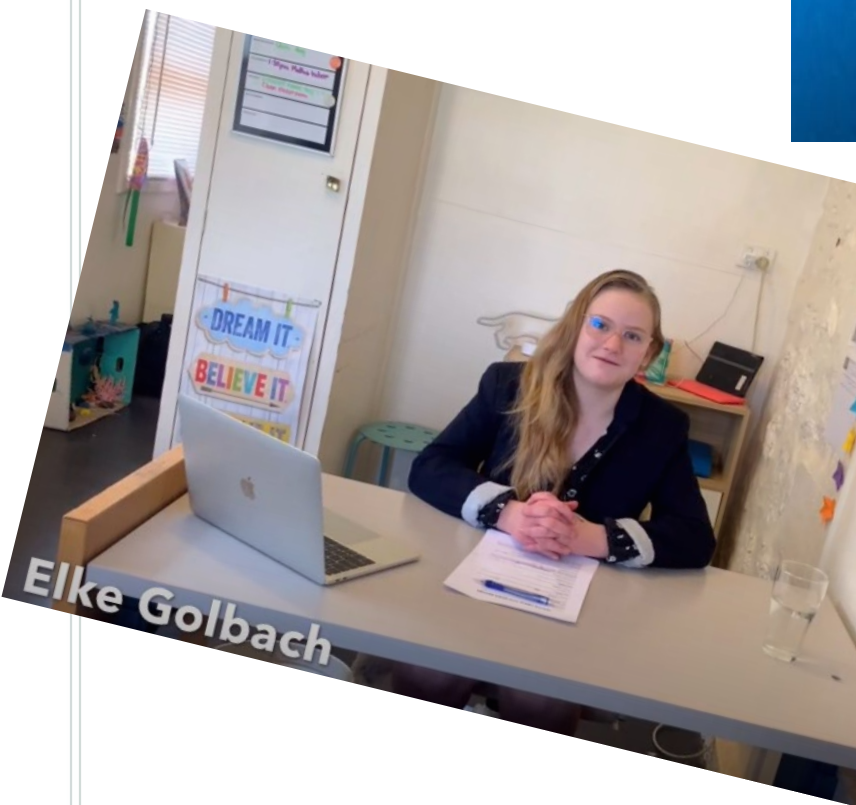
MR CLAYTON'S YEARS 1 & 2

Last term the students finished their unit on information reports and they turned out fantastic! A myriad of different topics were chosen by the students and within those, an array of fascinating sub-topics were put on display. After having the pleasure of reading through them all, I can safely say that I personally learnt a lot about a variety of different animals, as well as places and objects!

Recently, the Year 5/6s have been learning about the creation of news, and writing and performing news video scripts (often assuming a *presenter* persona to interview their supervisors or siblings). A few clips from their presentations appear here. The significance of 'fake news' has also been a lively topic of discussion.

The Year 7s have started to read some excerpts from biographies and autobiographies this term and, in consideration of their own histories, started to reflect on this being their last term at SOTA ever.

MR TANTI'S YEARS 5-7





Term 3 Week 9

- Reception:** Tilly for her positive attitude and superb oral language skills.
- Year 1:** Jayden his determination in our English lesson and the progress he is making with his decoding and blending.
- Year 2:** James for maintaining a positive attitude and engaging in all areas of learning throughout the entire term.
- Year 3:** Lucy for her diligence and perseverance during and after lessons.
- Year 4:** Abby for putting in lots of thought in her work and continuing to extend herself in all she does.
- Year 5/6:** Elke for regular completion of her work.
- Year 7:** Jessica for having engaged so well in recent Science tasks, especially one concerning water management.

Term 4 Week 1

- Reception:** Indianna for working very hard to learn how to subitise small collections.
- Year 1:** George for his immediate active engagement in lessons after returning from the 2 week holiday
- Year 2:** Lachie for his active participation in all learning areas after his holiday break.
- Year 3:** Cody for working diligently during and after lesson.
- Year 4:** Jacob for always looking for opportunities to excel and outdo himself.
- Year 5/6:** Todd for making classes more engaging by suggesting some excellent class activities.
- Year 7:** Hayden for carefully managing her time and prioritising the completion of important activities.

SPREAD THE WORD.....

SOTA Annual Wool show Fundraiser

Port Augusta Get-together weekend

Friday 4th December

Fleeces can be dropped into Elders or Nutrien Ag in Port Augusta for judging



CATAGORIES

WNR – 12 months or younger (still has lambs teeth).

Fine **WNR**/Strong **WNR** - this depends on the number of WNR fleeces entered.

HOGGETT -1.5 year old WTH or EWE.

Fine **HOGGET**/Strong **HOGGET**

EWE – 2.0 years and older.

Fine **EWE** Medium **EWE** Strong **EWE** – also depends on the amount of Ewe fleeces entered.

WTHS – strong and fine if there is enough to judge at the show.

****GREAT PRIZES ON OFFER****

Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA) ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

OPFA is a body of parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with the Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA).

- To develop and maintain an interest in the welfare of students.
- To cooperate with the Head of Campus and staff in providing a congenial environment, both at school and in the classroom.
- To assist the Department for Education and its teachers in the total development of our children through the educative process, with intelligent, well-directed and constructive concern.

Meetings

- OPFA meet in Week 3 and Week 7 on Wednesday at 3:30pm via WebEx.
- Meetings are open to ALL members of the SOTA community (parents are encouraged to attend)

Roles

The below roles allow whole school community involvement in any issue pertaining to the school.

Chairperson	Fundraising	REVISE
Deputy Chairperson	School Camp	Distance Education Supervisors (DES)
Secretary	Get-Together	Student Representative Council (SRC)
Parent Reps (Lower/Middle/Upper)		

Role	Requirements
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaise with SOTA community (parents/HOC/OAC Principal/OAC Finance)• Send out meeting reminders, minutes, action list and updates• Create agenda for OPFA meetings• Chair OPFA meetings 2 x term (+ any additional meetings)• Check/edit minutes and circulate to SOTA community within one week of meeting• Look/apply for grant opportunities and complete applications and required acquittals• Written report for year book/OPFA AGM
Vice-Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fill in Chairperson's role in their absence• Support with any tasks e.g. grant writing
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take minutes at OPFA meetings 2 x term (+ any additional meetings)• Create agenda in conjunction with Chairperson & HOC• Support with any tasks e.g. grant writing
Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brainstorm/develop fundraising opportunities• Liaise with parents, HOC/admin and Finance• Liaise with staff/parents about fundraising opportunities that will provide quality programs/learning opportunities for all SOTA students• Follow up on payment of orders/auction items etc.• Provide verbal report (Wk3) and written report (Wk 7) on OPFA meetings• Written report for AGM

School Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to planning the annual School Camp, via discussions with students/families, and in conjunction with staff • Liaise between parents and staff on camp matters • Assist/contribute in planning and organisation • Look/apply for grant opportunities • Provide verbal report (Wk3) and written report (Wk 7) on OPFA meetings • Written report for AGM
Get-Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to planning of the annual Get-Together, via discussions with students/families, and in conjunction with staff • Assist with logistics of Get Together • Provide verbal report (Wk3) and written report (Wk 7) on OPFA meetings • Written report for AGM
REVISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend meetings throughout year (approx. 2) • Liaise with REVISE coordinator on REVISE issues/news • Communicate REVISE information with SOTA community • Provide verbal report (Wk3) and written report (Wk 7) on OPFA meetings • Written report for AGM
SRC (teacher/year 7 student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate SRC fundraising activities • Liaise SRC ideas/decisions with wider community • Provide verbal report (Wk3) and written report (Wk 7) on OPFA meetings • Written report for AGM
Distance Ed Supervisors (Supervisor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair DES meetings (each fortnight) • Send out DES meeting minutes • Communicate with HOC, parents DES group • Provide verbal report (Wk3) and written report (Wk 7) on OPFA meetings • Written report for AGM
3 x Parent Reps (Lower/Middle/Upper)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touch base with any new families enrolled/coming to SOTA (i.e. initial welcome phone call and offer help/support) • Point of contact for parents (new & old) to ask questions • Highlight any concerns parents may have on OPFA meetings/with staff • Liaise with the appropriate year level teacher/s (i.e. anything teachers may want to let families know/hear about) • Report of any SOTA events happening/coming up in the future • Report to OPFA Meeting in Week 3 & Week 7 (if something to Report)

SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC) ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

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

- SOTA CGC is comprised of 13 members (11 elected parents/1 Staff rep/1 HOC)
- Elected positions are 2-year terms.
- The below 4 positions are nominated at the first SOTA CGC meeting following the AGM – held on the Thursday of Week 7 Term 4.

Meetings

- SOTA CGC meet in Week 4 and Week 8 of each term on Wednesday at 3:30pm via WebEx.
- Meetings are open to members of the SOTA CGC

SOTA CGC Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaise with SOTA community (parents/HOC/OAC Principal/OPFA chairperson)• Send out meeting reminders, agenda, and updates• Create agenda for SOTA CGC meetings• Chair SOTA CGC meetings 2 x term (+ any additional meetings)• Allocate role of taking minutes at meeting• Check/edit minutes and circulate to SOTA community within one week of meeting• Write yearly report for year book/combined SOTA CGC/OPFA AGM
OAC Governing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in 2 x term OAC Governing Council meetings (usually at night) as SOTA parent representative• OAC Governing Council has joint responsibility with the Principal for governance of the school• Liaise with SOTA community about whole OAC governance• Where relevant, take SOTA CGC issues to the OAC Governing Council for ratification and decision• Verbal report Wk 4 and written report Wk 8 meetings• Prepare report for SOTA CGC/OPFA AGM
OAC Finance Advisory Committee (FAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent representative from SOTA CGC• Attend OAC FAC meetings via WebEx 2 x term• Participate in the conversations regarding the management of the Open Access College/School of The Air finances.• Written report for SOTA CGC following OAC FAC meeting• Prepare report for SOTA CGC/OPFA AGM
OPFA Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official representative of SOTA parent voice, OPFA, to Committee of Governing Council• To ensure issues are officially taken from OPFA to SOTA CGC and vice versa, as required• Verbal report Wk 4 and written report Wk 8 meetings• Prepare report for SOTA CGC/OPFA AGM