

SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



September 2020 Term 3

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS



As we come to the end of Term 3, we have so much to celebrate about SOTA.

Firstly, and most importantly, we are together in spirit and purpose, despite the tyranny of distance. In unity, we celebrate the recent rainfall and flow of tourists that have given stability and assurance to many SOTA families. As a secular school, we might not pray, but we sure hope for Mother Nature and the economy to be favourable to our families. Hope ignites optimism, and drives imagination to possibilities.

Secondly, we celebrate the joyous time we had over School Experience Week. The spirit of the community was palpable from the moment the students stepped into the Outback Centre. Like the students, my colleagues and I enjoyed the multi-sensory experience that 'in real life' interaction affords: enthusiasm and excitement in student learning, conversations, play, and bus ride to Whyalla. Over the week, we were particularly impressed by the enthusiastic engagement of the following students: Martin, Jayden, Nelson, Cody, Ruby, Hollie and Lily who took personal responsibility in their learning and behaviour. They demonstrated leadership by the way they conducted themselves.

We also celebrate the achievements of individual students in this issue: Mareike for winning third prize in the Young Writers Award by South Australia English Teachers' Association; siblings Anakin and Lily for winning first place in their respective categories of the Premier's Reading Challenge: STEM Reading and Design Challenge.

A key condition that underpins quality learning is the ethics of care, as it is oft said, 'people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care'. As a community, we see evidence of care by our students' engagement in the learning environment, be it online or face-to-face events. In an environment that is safe and supportive, we have the means to thrive. For that, I am grateful to be part of the SOTA community.

Best wishes

Lai Kuan Lim

SOTA Head of Campus

EVENTS

School Closure Day: **11 September**

Learning Conversation: **14 September**

Last Day of Term 3: **25 September**

First Day of Term 4: **12 October**

Student Free Day: **20 November**

Get Together: **4 – 6 December**

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

SOTA CGC - UPDATE

Well School Experience Week has been and gone with kids settling back in for the last few weeks of term 3. Many thanks to all the teachers, staff, parents, students, and families who came and conquered and for those who went the extra mile in organising a week full of experiences for the kids. Even though COVID19 makes life hard, we managed to work around it for the week and the kids didn't seem to notice anything was amiss. CGC held a very productive meeting during SEW, taking the chance to have a face to face catch up while we could. The next CGC won't be until term 4. Kirsty did an amazing job in organising

the concert with a family favourite, Peter Combe where adults and children alike enjoyed taking a trip down memory lane listening to some golden oldies and singing along. Thanks to Hollie for having the Jolly Socks available for pick up for all those cold little feet and for raising funds for our SOTA events.

Petie Rankin

Chair, SOTA CGC





SOTA CLAIMS

Internet claim forms should be submitted to accounts.payable@openaccess.edu.au by end of week 9, Term 3.

Face to Face travel forms for School Experience Week should also be submitted to accounts.payable@openaccess.edu.au by end of week 9, Term 3.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

As I write this article, it is the first day of spring and the sun is shining. There are many exciting things to look forward to in the library. Our new teacher librarian, Jodie Zajac, has been running some innovative library lessons which have inspired students in animation, web design, to join a book club, get interested in fiction or simply enquire more about the library and what kinds of things we can help you with.

Bookweek is in October. This is the highlight of the Library Calendar. The theme this year is “Wild Creatures, Curious Minds”. We are going to be asking students from Marden campus and SOTA to create a curious creature. You can create it however you want. Leading up to Bookweek, we will be sharing books each day chosen for this year’s Bookweek. I am really looking forward to seeing your efforts. I will be reminding you all about this activity and giving you some ideas and inspiration. However, I know that many of you love the opportunity to really get into an activity, so I am giving you plenty of notice.

As promised, at the end of term I will collect any stories students have written about life in the outback and compile them for you all to enjoy. We have many creative students at SOTA and I am eager to read your stories.

If you are seeking extra challenges and wanting to apply your knowledge, why not use your creativity and critical thinking by participating in a competition. You can learn an enormous amount about areas that interest you. The closing dates make you finish the task and most importantly, you get to do something exciting and fun. Here are a couple of competitions that you may want to be involved in:

SPOT THE MATHS PHOTO COMPETITION

<https://www.science.org.au/sciencexart/spot-the-maths>

CLICKVIEW READING CHALLENGE

<https://online.clickview.com.au/share?sharecode=85d8defd>



OPFA FUNDRAISING

MIXED CARD PACKS AVAILABLE @ \$15 PER PACK:

Contact Hollie if you would like a pack.

JOLLY SOLES SOCKS

Another Jolly Soles Sock order will be placed due to popularity and demand!!

A box cost \$70 and consists of 14 pairs of socks, in a variety of funky, colourful pairs as well as everyday work wear styles. Keep for yourself, give as presents or on-sell (RRP price is \$5 per sock).

A standard box consists 14 fun funky designs in crew style. 1 Extra Large (adult 12-14), 4 Adult Large (8-12 adult sizes), 5 Adult Medium (2-8 adult sizes), 2 pair of Kids Small (12 kids – 2 adults), 2 pair of Kids Extra Small (9-12 kids sizes). Or you can individually choose the sizes you want in your box of 14. They can build the boxes to your requirements.

END OF YEAR AUCTION:

If you know of any business willing to donate for the end of year auction please let Hollie know so a letter of support can be sent – any suggestions are very welcomed and appreciated.

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

DES FUNDRAISING

Thermomix tickets are still available.





SUPERVISOR SUPPORT TERM 3

Sessions are for ALL Supervisors: Governesses and Parents welcome!

Term 3 Week 9

Tuesday 15th September 3:30-4:30pm

Via WebEx (listed publicly; usual password)

Sandy Russo from SPELD will be joining us to talk about past tense.

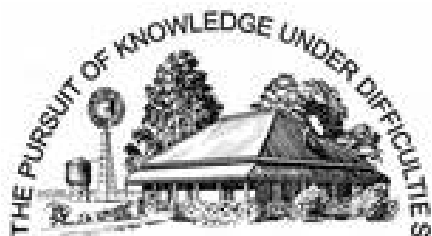
If you aren't able to attend, you can also email through any questions you would like asked.

SPORTS UNIFORMS

Do you require a sports polo top? Orders are now being taken as not all sizes are available. Please send through the order form to SOTA@openaccess.edu.au by Wednesday 16th September.

REVISE

REVISE has only had 4 placement requests for the first half of the year, and one was cancelled due to travel restrictions. Travel is now a bit easier and if you are hoping for a REVISE visit, please get in touch. Not all teachers are available to travel, but all requests will be considered and filled as best we can. Regards Trish



SCHOOL EXPERIENCE WEEK

The highlights of SEW were the disco and dinner on Tuesday night, the Whyalla excursion on Wednesday and playing on real green grass on Thursday. The Peter Combe concert to complete Thursday was also a popular choice for the inclusion in the highlights of the week.

The Whyalla excursion saw all of us visit the Eyre Reptile Park, the Year 3-7 students visited the maritime Museum and the R-2 students survived time on the roads at the Road Safety Centre.

As per usual the overall highlight was the privilege of witnessing the joy of just 'being with my friends'. Some had not seen each other since the March Camp which was over 5 months ago

To enjoy more photos of School Experience Week click on the following link

<https://www.openaccess.edu.au/sota/sota-news/school-experience-week-2020>





MS LEA'S ITINERANT VISITS

Hope you are all enjoying a delightful Term 3! ☺

In Week 4, I was lucky enough to visit Ruby & Nelson again. We had loads of fun with their energetic baby goats and I got to see some superb motorbike skills in action too!

In Week 5, I enjoyed another wonderful visit with Micah & Jayden who were helping to care for a very young lamb and as well as exploring some exciting Science Week activities too!

SEW in Week 6 was absolutely fantastic, and the Road Safety Centre was definitely a favourite!



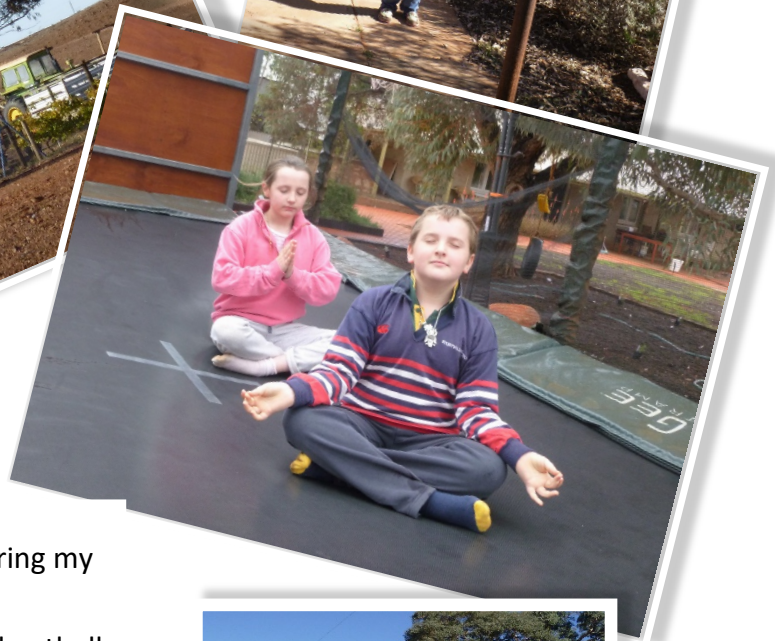
MK'S HOME VISITS

Week 5 took me back to one of the first stations I visited shortly after starting at SOTA. Back then I visited Madison and Cody and now Bonnie awaited me at Thurlga. Having survived that bundle of energy I was well prepared for SEW in Week 6.

Week 7 took me up to Nilpinna to catch up with Logan and Magenta. The fact that Lucy and George joined us on Thursday added to the activity in the classroom



MILLY'S HOME VISITS



I always enjoy the active afternoons during my IT visits!

Elke spent a lot of time on the Northwell netball court practising her shooting skills.

On Wilgena's trampoline, I tried to bounce Sam and Winsome out of their relaxed Om position. While dinner was cooking on the campfire, the girls from Martins Well and I played Bocce.

At Holowiliena, Todd refined his frisbee throwing technique and Stella focused on balancing.

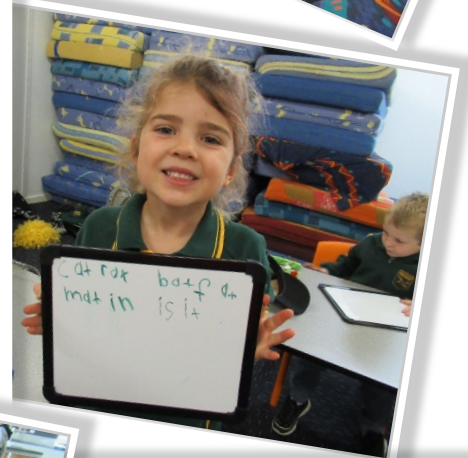


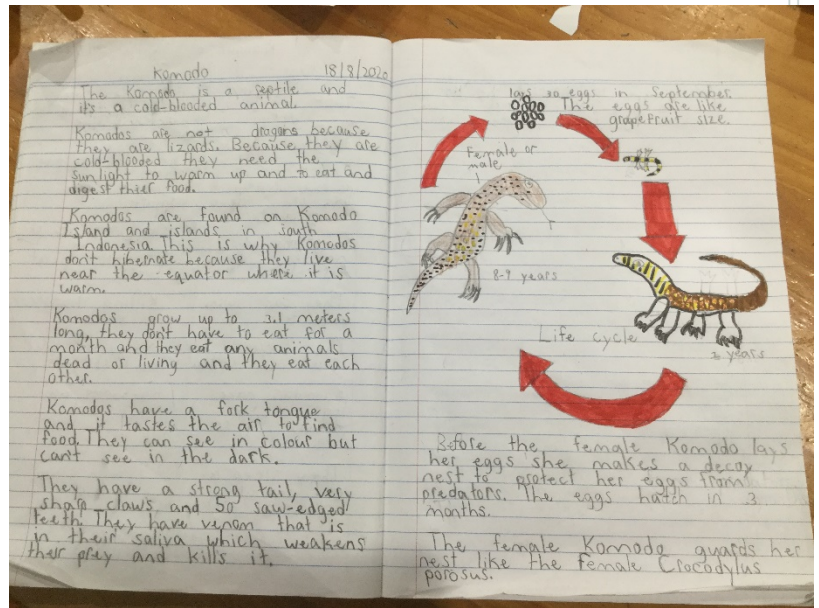
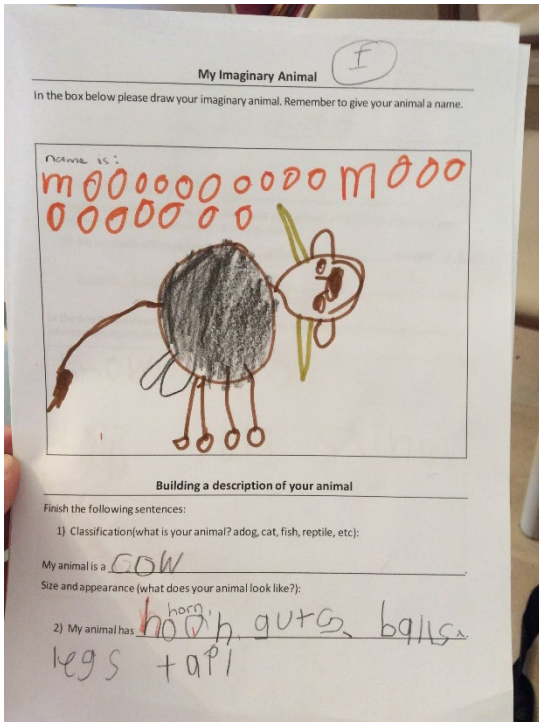


MS AMANDA'S RECEPTION

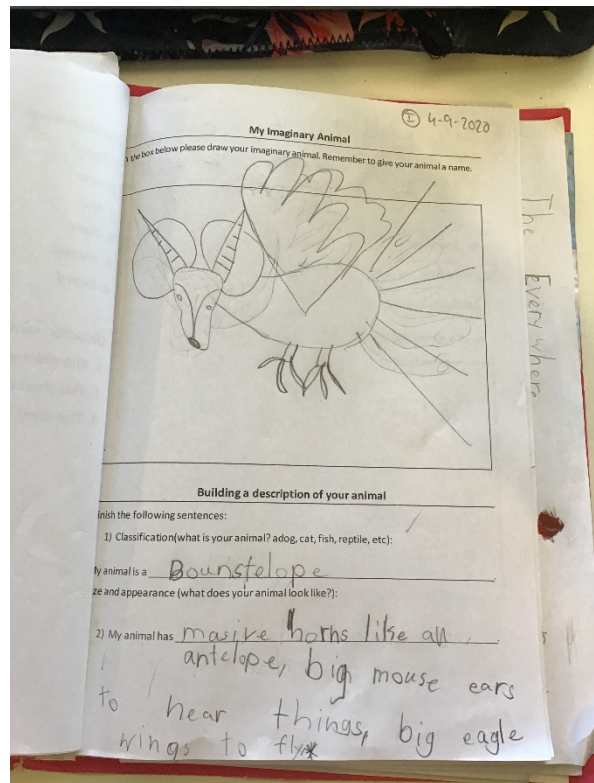
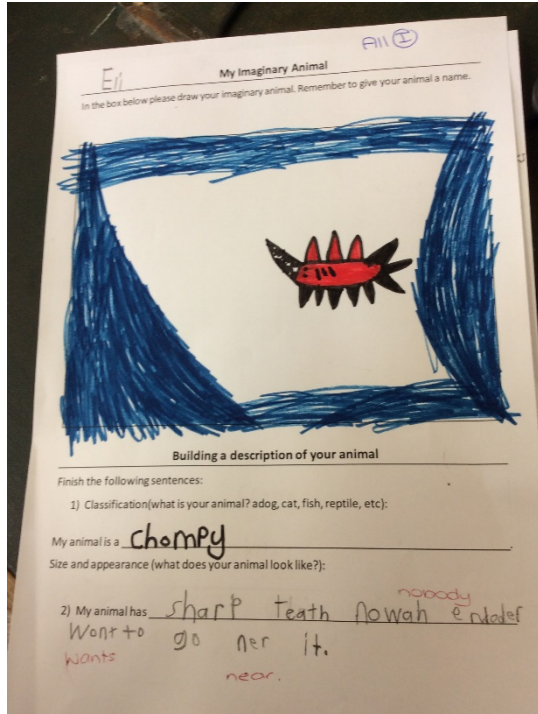
Reception Fun at School Experience

We enjoyed playing numeracy and literacy games together. We also enjoyed playing musical instruments and dressing up to perform for each other. The disco, Crazy Hair Day, Japanese teachers' visit and excursions were fun too.





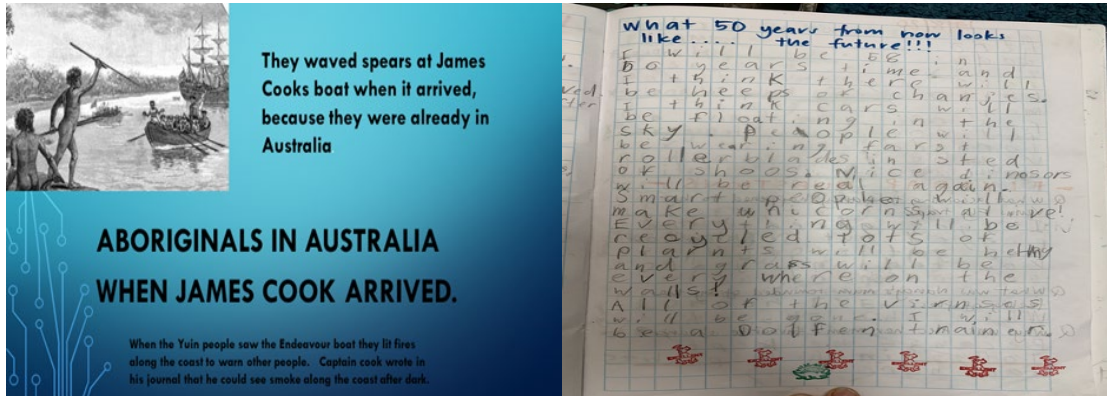
MR CLAYTON'S YEARS 1 & 2



The second half of this semester has seen the students focus heavily on informative writing. The students have thoroughly demonstrated a strong understanding of the language features used and structure of an informative text. The students have selected a wide array of different topics and sub topics to explore within this area of literacy.

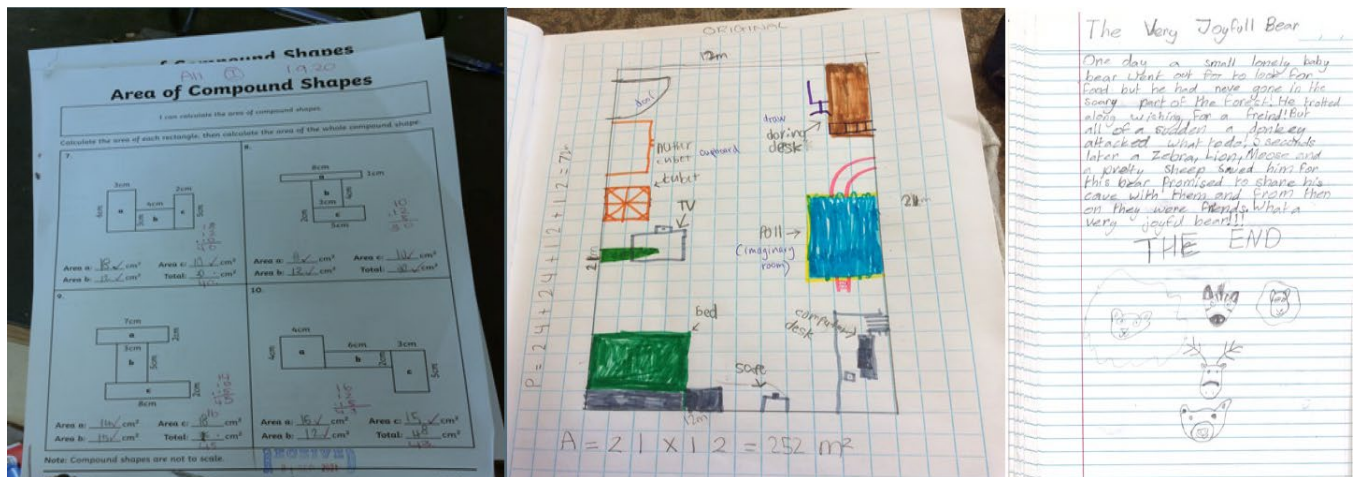
MISS MINI'S YEAR 3 & 4

Year 3 Work Share



In HASS, we looked at various explorers from around the world. Students imagined themselves as Captain Cook advising the Queen to establish a colony in Australia. In English, students applied their understanding of future tense to write about life 50 years from now. The students demonstrated amazing imagination of the future in their writing.

Year 4 Work Share



In Maths we looked at perimeter and area. And students were given a task to explore the area and the perimeter of their classroom and bedroom and to redesign them. Students really enjoyed redesigning their classroom and bedrooms. In creative writing, students were given a task to rewrite the story of The Very Cranky Bear to one about a very jolly bear. The stories that were recreated were really interesting and everyone did a great job.



This term, all the Year 5/6 students have created a PowerPoint of their own special interests to present to the class during lessons. Among others, Logan has completed a presentation on 'Motorbikes', Todd on 'Space', Willow on 'Pelicans', Holly on 'Earthquakes' and Elke on 'Volcanoes'. These presentations were often quite long; a sample page from a few appears here.

The wingspan of a pelican.

An adult pelican's wingspan is

1.8 – 3.5 m



Black Holes

Black Holes. Their name suggests emptiness, but they are the most densely packed objects in the universe, which gives them a gigantic gravitational pull. They are so densely packed that not even light can escape.

When a star explodes, it's gravity pulls it back together, and packs it tighter. Anything passing through this star's path is sucked into the middle.

Supermassive black holes can get up to the radius of billions the radius of our sun.

Fun fact! Did you know that there may be such a thing as white holes? Nobody has ever seen one, but it is likely that our universe was created by the explosion of a single white hole. Nothing can enter it, but light and energy constantly escape from it.

MOUNT PINATUBO

Mount Pinatubo, located in the Zambales mountains in the Philippines erupted on the 15th of June in 1991. The eruption took 350 lives and additional ones due mud flows which brings the total to 772 deaths, the event left 200,000 people homeless. The volcano is 1,486 meters high. There has only been this eruption in 600 years. It will not erupt again because it is absolutely scientifically impossible. The Volcano is now too old to erupt and couldn't possibly have any magma left.



During School Experience Week, the attending Year 5/6 students and Year 7 students all visited Port Augusta Secondary School's STEM Centre (STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) where PASS teachers Angela and Shane introduced the SOTA team to the Centre's laser cutting machine. Our students designed a box and then watched the laser cutter cut the pieces for a box of their chosen dimensions from a piece of plywood. There was enough time for everyone to also have an image laser-engraved on the lid of their box. Certainly, a highlight of School Experience Week!



MR TANTI'S YEARS 5-7

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE, STEM READING AND DESIGN CHALLENGE 2020



CONGRATULATIONS to Anakin and Lily, who each won first place in the Premier's Reading Challenge, STEM reading and design challenge.

Anakin won the R – 2 age group and his sister Lily won first place in the Years 3-5 age group. Anakin invented and built an airboat, which was inspired by a book about Neil Armstrong. His creative design was made from a plastic meat tray with a motor powered by a battery, which operates a propeller.

Lily was inspired by the book "Laika the Astronaut". Both students received a prize pack for their incredible efforts. The SOTA and Library teams were thrilled with the news!



Term 3 Week 5

Reception: Ada for having impeccable manners and always engaging 100% during Webex lessons.

Year 1: Tiarna for her fantastic work ethic, sunny disposition and positive attitude towards all learning areas.

Year 2: Mareike for here continued positive attitude in each and every Webex lesson, and continuing to push herself in all subject areas.

Year 3: Winsome for putting in lots of effort in designing a poster to show her understanding about the various ships that were used by Chinese and European explorers in 14th and 15th Century .

Year 4: Abby For her diligent work during and after lesson.

Year 5/6: Willow for making every effort to keep up with her work despite relocating and for creating an informative PowerPoint presentation about pelicans

Year 7: Isabel for regular, punctual attendance in WebEx lessons and for regular submission of excellent work

Term 3 Special SOTA Stars - SEW

Reception: Martin for his enthusiastic participation during School Experience Week: sharing his knowledge

Year 1: Jayden for his enthusiastic and persistent participation during School Experience Week.

Year 2: Nelson for his determined effort during School Experience Week, in particular in writing.

Year 3: Cody for taking responsibility in his learning and behaviour during School Experience Week.

Year 4: Ruby for her persistence in learning, and quiet determination to succeed during School Experience Week

Year 5/6: Hollie for her enthusiastic participation in all activities, despite many distractions during School Experience Week.

Year 7: Lily for her leadership in showing thanks and appreciation to the guest speakers in School Experience Week.

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****